

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, IRELAND.

GENERAL ABSTRACTS

SHOWING

THE ACREAGE UNDER THE SEVERAL CROPS,

AND THE

NUMBER OF LIVE STOCK

IN

EACH COUNTY AND PROVINCE,

FOR THE YEAR

1874.

ALSO, THE EMIGRATION FROM IRISH PORTS FROM 1st JANUARY
TO 30th JUNE, IN 1873 AND 1874,

AND THE NUMBER OF SCUTCHING MILLS IN EACH PROVINCE IN 1873.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



DUBLIN:

PRINTED BY ALEXANDER THOM, 87 & 88, ABBEY-STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1874.

C.—1124.] Price 2½d.

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AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, IRELAND, 1874.

TO HIS GRACE, JAMES, DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,

LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

I had the honour of submitting, on the 31st ultimo, a Return by Counties of the acreage under Flax in the years 1873 and 1874, with the number of Scutching Mills in 1873. I now beg to submit the annual General Abstracts, which give, as usual, by Counties and Provinces, the entire area under each description of Crop; also the total number of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs, and their estimated value.

The Emigration from Ireland, during the first six months of 1873 and 1874, is also given.—See page 22.

The collection of the Agricultural Statistics, which commenced on the 1st of June, occupied about two months. The Enumerators, of whom nearly 3,800 were employed, were selected from the Royal Irish Constabulary and Metropolitan Police, and, I need scarcely observe, discharged this duty with their usual efficiency. The various Holdings, which amount in all to about 600,000, were visited by them, and *the names of the several parties from whom the particulars of Tillage and Live Stock for each Holding were obtained, are stated on the Returns, with a view to further inquiry in any case, should it be found necessary.*

Your Grace is aware that the information given to the Enumerators is altogether voluntary; and I feel assured it will afford pleasure to your Grace to learn, as, I beg to say, it is most gratifying to have it in my power to state, that so far as I am informed by the Officers who acted as Superintendents of Districts, the Returns have been collected without difficulty—a fact highly creditable to the good feeling and intelligence of all ranks and classes connected with land in this country. In all Ireland there was this year only one refusal, to give the required information, reported by the Enumerators, but on my writing to the party and sending him blank forms for Tillage and Stock, as I have for many years been in the habit of doing in similar cases, I in a few days received the Returns filled up, together with a very courteous reply.

The Abstracts have been carefully compiled from summaries made by the Enumerators for their respective districts. They may differ in some degree from the revised figures which will be hereafter published; but I do not apprehend that any changes of importance will become necessary.

Success of
the Enumera-
tion.

Extent under Crops.	The total acreage under all Crops this year was	5,267,839 acres.
	The do. do. do. in 1873 (revised numbers)	5,270,746 "
	Showing a decrease in the extent under Crops in 1874 of :	2,907 "

Increase in
Cereals and
Green
Crops.

The Crops which *increased* in extent this year are—

		Increase.	
		Acres.	Acres.
CEREALS,	{ Wheat,	21,157	21,796
	{ Bere and Rye,	639	
	{ Mangel and Beet Root,	65	
GREEN CROPS,	{ Cabbage,	4,930	8,119
	{ Carrots, Parsnips, and other		
	{ Green Crops,	3,124	
	{ Meadow and Clover,		
Total Increase on the foregoing Crops,			97,750

Decrease in
Cereals,
Green
Crops and
Flax.

The Crops which *decreased* in acreage in 1874 are—

		Decrease.	
		Acres.	Acres.
CEREALS,	{ Oats,	30,786	51,026
	{ Barley,	18,769	
	{ Beans and Pease,	1,471	
GREEN CROPS,	{ Potatoes,	10,841	27,220
	{ Turnips,	14,361	
	{ Vetches and Rape,	2,018	
	{ Flax,		
Total Decrease in the foregoing Crops,			100,657
Making a Net Decrease in the area under all Crops of			2,907

Crops of
1874 com-
pared with
Crops of
1873.

It appears from the foregoing summaries that, compared with 1873, wheat shows an increase of 21,157 acres, bere and rye of 639 acres, mangel and beet root of 65 acres, cabbage 4,930 acres, carrots, parsnips, and other green crops of 3,124 acres, and meadow and clover 67,835 acres.

In oats there is a decrease 30,786 acres, barley of 18,769 acres, beans and pease of 1,471 acres, potatoes of 10,841 acres, turnips of 14,361 acres, vetches and rape of 2,018 acres, and flax of 22,411 acres.

ABSTRACT OF CEREAL CROPS.

	1873.	1874.	Increase in 1874.	Decrease in 1874.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
WHEAT,	167,554	188,711	21,157	—
OATS,	1,510,972	1,480,186	—	30,786
BARLEY,	230,115	211,346	—	18,769
BERE AND RYE,	9,224	9,863	639	—
BEANS AND PEASE,	12,873	11,402	—	1,471
TOTAL,	1,930,738	1,901,508	—	29,230

Decrease in Cereal Crops in 1874, 29,230 Acres.

ABSTRACT OF GREEN CROPS.

	1873.	1874.	Increase in 1874.	Decrease in 1874.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
POTATOES,	903,262	892,421	—	10,841
TURNEPS,	347,848	333,487	—	14,361
MANGEL WURZEL AND BEET ROOT,	38,231	38,296	65	—
CABBAGE,	28,115	33,045	4,930	—
CARROTS, PARSNIPS, AND OTHER GREEN CROPS,	31,590	34,714	3,124	—
VETCHES AND RAPE,	23,417	21,399	—	2,018
TOTAL,	1,372,463	1,353,362	—	19,101

Decrease in Green Crops in 1874, . . . 19,101 Acres.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF CEREAL AND GREEN CROPS, &c.

		Acres.	Acres.
Decrease in Cereal Crops	in 1874,	29,230	70,742
Do. Green Crops	in do.	19,101	
Do. Flax	in do.	22,411	
Increase in Meadow and Clover	in do.	—	67,835
Total Decrease in the extent of Land under Crops in 1874,			2,907

The total extent under Crops, Grass, Fallow, Woods and Plantations, and of Bog and Waste *unoccupied*, in 1873 and 1874, is given by Provinces in the following Table:—

Division
of Land.

PROVINCES.	Extent under Crops.	Grass.	Fallow.	Woods and Plan- tations.	Bog and Waste <i>Unoccupied</i> .	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
LEINSTER, { 1873, 1,471,860 2,637,235 5,750 101,128 621,942 } 4,837,921	{ 1874, 1,466,316 2,636,474 4,409 101,142 629,580 }					
MUNSTER, { 1873, 1,266,781 3,400,717 3,811 102,771 1,153,709 } 5,834,789	{ 1874, 1,272,004 3,423,863 2,365 109,233 1,127,304 }					
ULSTER, { 1873, 1,810,968 2,253,574 3,133 61,774 1,190,338 } 5,319,787	{ 1874, 1,812,466 2,229,673 3,635 60,358 1,151,655 }					
CONNAUGHT, { 1873, 721,137 2,122,464 754 50,983 1,337,858 } 4,233,196	{ 1874, 717,053 2,120,151 1,778 52,132 1,342,082 }					
TOTAL, { 1873, 5,270,746 10,413,090 13,454 323,658 4,303,847 } 20,525,693*	{ 1874, 5,267,839 10,472,161 12,187 322,885 4,250,621 }					

* Exclusive of the larger Rivers, Lakes, and Tideways.

The acreage under the head of "Bog and Waste *unoccupied*," had not any Live Stock on it at the period of the enumeration.

The area under the several Crops in each year from 1870 to 1874, inclusive, was as under:—

Crops.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat,	259,846	244,451	225,204	167,554	188,711
Oats,	1,650,039	1,636,136	1,624,711	1,510,972	1,480,186
Barley,	241,285	226,979	219,013	230,115	211,846
Bere and Rye,	11,797	11,555	9,975	9,224	9,863
Beans and Pease, . . .	10,089	10,913	11,821	12,873	11,402
Potatoes,	1,043,583	1,058,434	991,871	903,262	892,421
Turnips,	339,059	327,035	340,711	347,848	333,487
Mangel and Beet Root, .	25,400	31,921	34,832	38,231	38,296
Cabbages,	34,979	33,008	39,452	28,115	33,045
Carrots, Parsnips, and other Green Crops, }	27,712	29,809	31,196	31,590	34,714
Vetches and Rape, . .	27,990	31,422	30,172	28,417	21,399
Flax,	194,910	156,670	121,992	129,297	106,694
Meadow and Clover, .	1,773,851	1,899,044	1,800,273	1,838,246	1,906,063

Live Stock

RETURNS OF LIVE STOCK.

It appears from the following Table that the Returns of Live Stock for 1874 when compared with 1873 show a *decrease* in the number of Horses of 6,677, in Cattle of 28,989, and in Sheep of 46,907; and an *increase* of Pigs amounting to 52,040.

Number of
Live Stock.

The following are the numbers of Live Stock for each year from 1864 to 1874, inclusive:—

Year.	Number of Horses.	Number of Cattle.	Number of Sheep.	Number of Pigs.
1864,	562,158	3,262,294	3,366,941	1,068,480
1865,	548,339	3,497,548	3,694,356	1,305,353
1866,	535,799	3,746,157	4,274,282	1,497,274
1867,	524,180	3,707,803	4,835,519	1,285,191
1868,	524,703	3,040,796	4,901,496	689,576
1869,	528,201	3,733,675	4,651,195	1,082,224
1870,	532,657	3,799,912	4,336,884	1,431,215
1871,	538,095	3,976,372	4,233,435	1,621,423
1872,	540,974	4,059,397	4,263,254	1,368,571
1873,	532,447	4,147,102	4,484,620	1,044,454
1874,	525,770	4,118,113	4,437,613	1,096,494
Difference in Numbers between 1873 and 1874,	Decrease. 6,677	Decrease. 28,989	Decrease. 46,907	Increase. 52,040

Value of
Live Stock

The *total estimated* value of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs this year, is £37,225,887, being a decrease of £228,392 when compared with 1873, as appears by the following Table:—

ESTIMATED VALUE OF LIVE STOCK in IRELAND in each Year from 1864 to 1874, inclusive, calculated according to the rates assumed by the Census Commissioners of 1841, viz.:—For Horses, £8 each; Cattle, £6 10s.; Sheep, 22s.; and Pigs, 25s. each. [These rates have been retained since 1841, in order to facilitate a comparison of the value—one year with another. A per-centage may be added by anyone at pleasure on account of the increased value of live stock since that period.]

Years.	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£	£
1864, . . .	4,497,264	21,204,911	3,703,635	1,323,100	30,728,910
1865, . . .	4,366,712	22,734,062	4,003,792	1,632,441	32,817,007
1866, . . .	4,266,392	24,350,020	4,701,710	1,671,593	35,209,715
1867, . . .	4,193,440	24,100,719	5,319,071	1,543,989	35,157,219
1868, . . .	4,197,624	23,704,174	5,391,640	1,086,972	34,380,410
1869, . . .	4,225,608	24,268,888	5,116,314	1,352,760	34,963,590
1870, . . .	4,201,256	24,699,428	4,770,572	1,826,519	35,507,775
1871, . . .	4,304,760	25,846,418	4,856,779	2,026,779	36,934,736
1872, . . .	4,327,792	20,386,081	4,089,579	1,735,714	37,139,166
1873, . . .	4,259,576	26,956,163	4,932,972	1,305,568	37,454,279
1874, . . .	4,206,160	26,767,735	4,881,374	1,370,616	37,225,887
Difference in Value between 1873 and 1874,	Decrease. £53,416	Decrease. £188,428	Decrease. £51,598	Increase. £65,050	Decrease. £228,392

Scutching Mills.—The number of Mills for scutching Flax in each province in 1873, was—In Ulster, 1,335;—Leinster, 29;—Munster, 33;—Connaught, 30;—making in all 1,427.

Emigration.—In the first six months of 1873 the Returns of Emigrants from the several ports of Ireland show that 60,140 persons left this country. The number for the same period in 1874 was 45,781, being a decrease of 14,359 persons in the first half of this year. The emigration referred to is given by months for 1873 and 1874 at page 22.

Labourers' Dwellings.—It is impossible, both on social and sanitary grounds, to exaggerate the importance of improving the dwellings of the labouring classes in Ireland; the Legislature has enabled the Treasury to grant loans for this most desirable object through the medium of the Board of Public Works, Dublin. According to the Census of 1871, the number of fourth-class houses in Ireland, most of which had only one room for the entire family of EVERY AGE AND SEX, was ascertained to be very considerable, and in these were living nearly half a million of persons.

Weeds.—Although very great improvement in the breeds and value of every description of Farm Stock has been effected in Ireland, it must be admitted that a corresponding improvement has not taken place in the cultivation of the land. On several occasions I have felt it my duty to solicit public attention to the incalculable injury arising from the unchecked growth of weeds which is, unhappily, permitted in almost every part of the country,

Scutching Mills.

Emigration.

Labourers' Dwellings.

Weeds

and also along the sides of roads, railways, and canals. On this subject I have now given extracts from former Abstracts containing valuable information from the writings of Sir John Sinclair and other eminent persons, which I trust will prove useful to those engaged in the cultivation of land. I have also appended some extracts respecting the vast injury and great pecuniary loss (estimated at nearly two millions sterling) caused by weeds in Ireland from that valuable publication, the "Leisure Hour," in its number for May and June of last year, together with two articles on the subject which appeared in the "Freeman's Journal." At the annual meeting in 1872 of the Royal Agricultural Society in Belfast, the noble President, Lord Lurgan, K.P., referred to "the necessity of acting on the suggestions thrown out in the Reports of the Registrar-General in relation to the extirpation of weeds. They did a deal of mischief, and he thought they should carry out the sentence which the old Scotch law pronounced, declaring 'anyone to be a TRAITOR WHO POISONED THE QUEEN'S LAND WITH WEEDS.'"

I again beg to repeat my respectful acknowledgments to the landed proprietors, tenant farmers, the clergy of all denominations, and to the public press in Ireland, for a continuance of the same generous and valuable assistance which I have now for so many years experienced in connexion with these Statistics.

I have the honour to be

Your Grace's very faithful servant,

WILLIAM DONNELLY,

Registrar-General.

*General Register Office,
Charlemont House, Dublin,
14th August, 1874.*

GENERAL ABSTRACTS,
BY
COUNTIES AND PROVINCES,
OF THE
ACREAGE UNDER CROPS AND THE NUMBER OF LIVE
STOCK IN IRELAND, IN THE YEARS 1873 AND 1874.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, IRELAND.

GENERAL ABSTRACTS, for each County and Province, showing in

Number.	PROVINCES AND COUNTIES, WITH THEIR AREAS (including water) IN STATUTE ACRES.	EXTENT OF LAND UNDER						
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Bere and Rye.	Beans and Peas.	Potatoes.	Turnips.
	LEINSTER:	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1	Carlow, . . . {1873, 231,342 acres, {1874,	2,238 3,604	21,542 21,325	5,555 5,242	8 11	. .	9,984 9,982	5,576 5,020
2	Dublin, . . . {1873, 226,414 acres, {1874,	6,392 7,810	16,273 15,472	2,348 2,173	154 124	95 104	10,107 9,923	2,652 2,289
3	Kildare, . . . {1873, 418,436 acres, {1874,	2,031 2,777	26,414 26,326	16,009 15,261	242 199	35 6	9,881 9,066	12,971 12,258
4	Kilkenny, . . {1873, 509,732 acres, {1874,	9,301 13,009	40,143 30,794	16,080 15,172	24 55	8 4	19,129 10,059	11,066 10,305
5	King's, . . . {1873, 493,085 acres, {1874,	1,392 1,082	24,031 23,581	16,027 14,608	392 394	5 5	16,778 16,056	10,776 10,311
6	Longford, . . {1873, 269,409 acres, {1874,	817 768	20,888 19,093	63 38	241 236	13 17	13,809 13,114	3,187 2,841
7	Louth, . . . {1873, 201,722 acres, {1874,	1,985 2,604	25,036 25,632	23,634 21,727	40 38	359 259	12,728 12,603	9,802 9,488
8	Meath, . . . {1873, 580,083 acres, {1874,	2,334 3,705	37,939 36,830	2,037 1,777	145 136	164 70	14,210 13,317	8,067 7,332
9	Queen's, . . . {1873, 424,854 acres, {1874,	1,078 1,823	21,457 20,980	26,578 26,271	42 52	13 8	17,168 17,344	13,877 13,489
10	Westmeath, . {1873, 453,468 acres, {1874,	296 267	28,042 25,940	364 325	130 141	11 5	12,853 12,272	6,692 5,846
11	Wexford, . . . {1873, 576,588 acres, {1874,	8,791 10,865	50,075 40,354	50,560 48,225	27 69	4,997 3,721	23,857 24,593	19,496 18,193
12	Wicklow, . . . {1873, 500,178 acres, {1874,	4,553 5,526	26,228 26,046	1,177 958	9 24	6 5	12,138 11,697	5,946 5,435
	Total of LEINSTER, {1873, 4,876,211 acres, {1874,	41,408 53,340	338,068 327,273	160,432 151,862	1,454 1,479	5,706 4,204	172,602 169,626	110,086 103,087
	Increase or Decrease in LEINSTER in 1874, {	In- crease, 13,932	De- crease, 10,795	De- crease, 8,570	In- crease, 25	De- crease, 1,502	De- crease, 3,036	De- crease, 7,001

Statute Acres, the extent of Land under Crops in 1873 and 1874.

CROPS, IN STATUTE ACRES.								Fallow or Un-cropped Arable Land.	Years.	Population in 1871.	Number.
Mangel Wurzel and Beet Root.	Cabbage.	Carrots, Parsnips, and other Green Crops.	Vegetables and Rape.	Flax.	Meadow and Clover.	Total Extent under Crops.					
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			LEINSTER :	
915 835	681 772	682 528	39 52	6 1	32,186 31,627	79,414 78,999	137 25	1873 1874	}	51,472	1
712 722	881 910	2,422 2,550	159 171	• •	45,575 47,897	87,770 90,147	298 139	1873 1874	}	405,625	2
1,283 1,376	182 228	554 823	404 400	1 1	52,361 54,715	122,368 123,906	538 365	1873 1874	}	84,198	3
1,642 1,523	1,408 1,485	698 812	356 226	5 4	61,206 62,332	161,056 161,680	2,021 1,664	1873 1874	}	109,302	4
1,842 1,022	297 339	946 897	829 754	30 26	46,921 47,084	120,266 117,449	254 210	1873 1874	}	75,781	5
376 318	720 800	298 317	135 70	546 379	35,336 36,637	76,429 74,628	111 78	1873 1874	}	64,406	6
380 471	180 180	656 735	611 535	1,012 588	21,501 23,025	97,924 97,885	116 86	1873 1874	}	79,422	7
1,113 1,282	253 305	1,421 1,591	578 642	230 56	73,676 79,479	142,859 146,322	909 708	1873 1874	}	99,256	8
2,188 2,103	494 598	652 760	195 162	1 1	58,346 59,539	142,104 143,049	130 168	1873 1874	}	77,071	9
1,077 963	484 592	866 884	778 655	54 43	51,912 49,656	103,559 97,589	254 139	1873 1874	}	78,416	10
3,580 3,643	1,155 1,358	1,478 1,375	285 236	20 9	61,753 60,525	226,054 222,161	612 451	1873 1874	}	132,506	11
918 976	458 488	690 735	167 99	• 3	60,267 60,014	112,557 112,003	376 376	1873 1874	}	78,509	12
16,001 15,734	7,195 8,050	11,363 12,016	4,536 4,002	1,905 1,113	601,042 612,530	1,471,860 1,466,316	5,756 4,409	1873 1874	}	Total of LEINSTER, 1,335,966	
De-crease, 267	In-crease, 855	In-crease, 653	De-crease, 534	De-crease, 792	In-crease, 11,488	De-crease, 3,544	De-crease, 1,347	Increase or Decrease in LEINSTER in 1874.			

(continued on page 12.)

GENERAL ABSTRACTS, for each County and Province, showing in Statute

Number.	PROVINCES AND COUNTIES, WITH THEIR AREAS (including water) IN STATUTE ACRES.		EXTENT OF LAND UNDER							
			Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Bere and Rye.	Beans and Pease.	Potatoes.	Turpins.	
MUNSTER:			Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1	Clare, . . . { 1873, 6,843 827,994 acres, { 1874, 5,327	18,665	2,646	851	238	28,631	6,832			
		16,107	2,336	614	160	28,445	6,607			
2	Cork, E.R., { 1873, 13,081 1,040,284 acres, { 1874, 16,901	86,621	18,575	89	22	39,819	29,120			
		84,661	14,698	03	29	41,681	28,176			
3	Cork, W.R., { 1873, 6,052 809,399 acres, { 1874, 6,841	29,369	6,738	39	6	29,019	11,330			
		27,962	5,824	46	4	30,111	11,350			
4	Kerry, . . . { 1873, 1,573 1,165,917 acres, { 1874, 1,493	25,118	4,716	798	7	28,627	6,082			
		25,523	3,240	663	5	29,672	6,097			
5	Limerick, . . { 1873, 11,212 681,112 acres, { 1874, 11,162	24,404	4,410	77	9	25,931	6,991			
		22,391	3,640	86	15	25,654	6,520			
6	Tipperary, N.R., { 1873, 4,252 524,920 acres, { 1874, 4,443	25,976	9,791	160	1	18,543	12,944			
		24,477	10,123	125	13	18,084	13,092			
7	Tipperary, S.R., { 1873, 8,791 530,511 acres, { 1874, 11,132	36,501	1,537	27	9	30,468	9,242			
		32,543	1,257	50	4	19,729	8,572			
8	Waterford, . { 1873, 12,081 461,553 acres, { 1874, 13,574	28,778	2,117	123	29	15,064	8,314			
		25,845	1,245	124	40	15,631	8,062			
	Total of Munster, { 1873, 63,883 6,067,990 acres, { 1874, 70,873	273,432	50,330	2,162	321	205,692	90,893			
		259,509	43,067	1,795	270	209,207	88,562			
	Increase or Decrease in Munster in 1874, {	In- crease, 6,988	De- crease, 13,923	De- crease, 7,463	De- crease, 567	De- crease, 51	In- crease, 3,585	De- crease, 2,331		
CONNAUGHT:										
1	Galway, . . . { 1873, 10,443 1,566,354 acres, { 1874, 8,276	57,681	4,814	1,277	106	54,158	17,206			
		55,749	4,463	1,640	70	52,141	15,983			
2	Leitrim, . . . { 1873, 91 392,363 acres, { 1874, 71	15,072	9	207	3	20,843	921			
		13,798	13	181	11	19,909	864			
3	Mayo, . . . { 1873, 3,124 1,383,882 acres, { 1874, 2,159	68,252	3,080	1,642	85	61,294	13,363			
		68,149	2,305	1,869	47	60,228	12,267			
4	Rooscommon, . { 1873, 514 607,691 acres, { 1874, 716	35,677	129	461	.	31,525	5,370			
		82,855	84	488	3	31,492	5,078			
5	Sligo, . . . { 1873, 892 461,753 acres, { 1874, 765	30,223	1,913	97	5	25,189	4,140			
		29,430	1,407	135	3	24,147	3,798			
	Total of CONNAUGHT, { 1873, 15,064 4,392,043 acres, { 1874, 11,867	206,905	9,943	3,664	199	193,009	41,196			
		199,981	8,272	4,313	134	188,007	37,990			
	Increase or Decrease in CONNAUGHT in 1874, {	De- crease, 3,077	De- crease, 6,924	De- crease, 1,673	In- crease, 629	De- crease, 65	De- crease, 5,002	De- crease, 3,206		

Acres, the extent of Land under Crops in 1873 and 1874—continued.

CROPS, IN STATUTE ACRES.

CROPS, IN STATUTE ACRES.								Fallow or Un- cropped Arable Land.	Years.	Population in 1871.	Number.
Mangel Wurzel and Beet Root.	Cabbages.	Carrots, Parsnips, and other Green Crops.	Vetches and Rape.	Flax.	Meadow and Clover.	Total Extent under Crops.					
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			MUNSTER:	
1,214	1,520	516	53	253	79,060	145,348	8	1873	}	147,994	1
1,370	1,699	674	95	287	82,658	146,409	32	1874			
4,432	1,248	1,936	2,820	381	103,935	301,562	574	1873	}	339,766	2
4,196	1,370	1,774	2,395	174	104,005	300,019	694	1874			
1,278	1,101	974	1,847	632	43,209	131,707	870	1873	}	170,280	3
1,367	1,355	1,313	1,390	346	42,585	130,699	448	1874			
1,488	2,403	472	266	296	80,213	152,038	89	1873	}	196,014	4
1,375	2,730	606	278	246	83,104	156,042	32	1874			
1,499	1,257	796	171	42	100,097	176,896	935	1873	}	191,313	5
1,570	1,465	788	163	41	106,599	180,112	371	1874			
1,893	1,173	577	478	12	55,880	131,601	205	1873	}	92,886	6
1,780	1,389	638	429	5	67,250	131,848	134	1874			
1,364	1,372	696	176	3	55,365	135,559	464	1873	}	123,324	7
1,240	1,540	746	151	4	58,373	135,348	436	1874			
1,083	1,096	983	110	3	21,579	91,960	666	1873	}	122,825	8
1,773	1,135	948	158	1	22,973	91,527	198	1874			
14,851	11,170	6,950	5,923	1,602	530,438	1,260,781	3,811	1873	}	Total of MUNSTER,	
14,665	12,699	7,487	4,959	1,284	557,637	1,272,004	2,365	1874			1,390,402.
De- crease, 189	In- crease, 1,519	In- crease, 537	De- crease, 904	De- crease, 318	In- crease, 18,199	In- crease, 5,223	De- crease, 1,446	Increase or Decrease in MUNSTER in 1874.			
CONNAUGHT:											
1,493	1,074	1,301	4,157	103	87,441	221,257	313	1873	}	248,257	1
1,647	1,152	1,324	3,789	44	70,451	216,630	720	1874			
258	1,362	296	77	460	43,686	83,288	21	1873	}	95,324	2
301	1,404	362	65	382	46,374	83,915	86	1874			
254	1,635	860	849	1,132	33,864	180,426	255	1873	}	245,855	3
270	1,859	1,032	472	839	37,839	189,405	690	1874			
307	688	440	1,205	272	57,585	134,553	92	1873	}	141,246	4
476	937	392	786	119	60,701	134,127	187	1874			
124	1,101	302	179	508	27,940	92,613	73	1873	}	115,311	5
139	1,184	344	182	316	31,126	92,978	145	1874			
2,536	5,860	3,199	6,567	2,475	230,516	721,137	754	1873	}	Total of CONNAUGHT,	
2,923	6,537	3,374	5,294	1,700	246,541	717,053	1,778	1874			845,993
In- crease, 397	In- crease, 677	In- crease, 175	De- crease, 1,263	De- crease, 775	In- crease, 16,025	De- crease, 4,084	In- crease, 1,024	Increase or Decrease in CONNAUGHT in 1874.			

[continued on page 14.]

GENERAL ABSTRACTS, for each County and Province, showing in Statute

Number.	PROVINCES AND COUNTIES, WITH THEIR AREAS (including water) IN STATUTE ACRES.	EXTENT OF LAND USED						
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Bere and Rye.	Beans and Pease.	Potatoes.	Turnips.
	ULSTER:	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1	Antrim, . . . {1873, 761,803 acres, {1874,	5,772 5,686	81,650 80,451	987 1,031	41 56	3,364 3,266	48,812 48,848	10,638 10,140
2	Armagh, . . . {1873, 328,078 acres, {1874,	6,561 7,438	64,426 64,440	335 303	49 42	374 670	30,104 29,253	8,626 7,892
3	Cavan, . . . {1873, 477,360 acres, {1874,	481 569	49,839 50,728	19 28	50 100	9 13	29,044 28,462	3,430 3,908
4	Donegal, . . . {1873, 1,193,443 acres, {1874,	1,502 1,334	96,347 96,873	2,703 2,810	564 633	486 646	48,304 47,018	17,144 17,235
5	Down, . . . {1873, 612,495 acres, {1874,	24,783 26,827	118,342 119,413	1,131 524	129 195	1,311 1,285	53,266 52,916	21,117 20,201
6	Fermanagh, . . {1873, 457,287 acres, {1874,	732 572	25,429 24,404	26 23	162 154	43 27	17,082 16,794	3,339 3,330
7	Londonderry, . {1873, 522,350 acres, {1874,	2,663 3,070	78,333 78,759	1,306 1,418	679 825	841 658	35,358 35,578	15,077 15,073
8	Monaghan, . . {1873, 319,757 acres, {1874,	1,732 2,186	61,801 61,529	2,551 1,957	141 117	105 87	24,290 23,866	8,887 8,570
9	Tyrone, . . . {1873, 806,296 acres, {1874,	2,951 2,909	116,400 117,317	60 51	109 154	112 142	45,709 44,846	17,368 16,496
	Total of ULSTER, {1873, 3,478,867 acres, {1874,	47,197 50,511	692,567 693,423	9,208 8,145	1,924 2,276	6,647 6,794	331,969 325,581	105,857 103,848
	Increase or Decrease in ULSTER in 1874, . {	In- crease, 3,314	In- crease, 856	De- crease, 1,063	In- crease, 352	In- crease, 147	De- crease, 6,388	De- crease, 1,319
	Total of IRELAND, {1873, 20,815,111 acres, {1874,	167,554 186,711	1,510,972 1,480,186	230,115 211,346	9,224 9,863	12,873 11,402	803,262 892,421	347,848 333,487
	Increase or Decrease in IRELAND in 1874, . {	In- crease, 21,157	De- crease, 30,786	De- crease, 18,769	In- crease, 639	De- crease, 1,471	De- crease, 10,841	De- crease, 14,361

Acres, the extent of Land under Crops in 1873 and 1874—continued.

CROPS, IN STATUTE ACRES.								Fallow or Un-cropped Arable Land.	Years.	Population in 1871.	Number.
Mangel Worsel and Beet Root.	Cabbages.	Carrots, Parsnips, and other Green Crops.	Vetches and Rape.	Flax.	Meadow and Clover.	Total Extent under Crops.					
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			ULSTER:	
541	134	1,262	1,133	11,749	79,097	245,230	681	1873	}	403,630	1
452	229	1,432	1,063	9,182	82,160	241,987	1,306	1874			
303	115	1,595	808	9,892	41,772	164,830	246	1873	}	179,221	2
300	180	1,705	980	7,907	42,138	163,257	184	1874			
455	988	710	195	7,235	58,849	151,304	64	1873	}	140,555	3
479	1,330	1,043	222	5,741	61,594	154,237	113	1874			
479	1,010	935	908	14,496	47,917	232,794	817	1873	}	217,992	4
450	1,430	1,072	1,044	11,417	50,368	231,831	706	1874			
1,021	265	1,786	1,443	27,093	87,599	319,268	317	1873	}	293,927	5
1,050	409	2,240	2,000	22,367	70,507	319,910	334	1874			
721	400	655	151	3,454	51,374	103,607	175	1873	}	92,688	6
741	494	595	108	2,526	54,569	104,335	323	1874			
415	318	815	783	18,769	36,840	192,287	584	1873	}	173,932	7
643	571	1,049	948	17,366	39,782	196,340	396	1874			
533	281	775	446	11,557	31,304	144,383	69	1873	}	112,785	8
482	584	1,050	348	8,691	32,302	141,809	53	1874			
385	379	1,563	474	19,270	52,500	257,277	180	1873	}	215,668	9
427	551	1,851	429	17,592	55,895	258,760	220	1874			
4,853	3,890	10,078	6,401	123,315	467,252	1,810,968	3,133	1873	}	Total of ULSTER.	
4,974	3,769	11,837	7,144	102,789	469,375	1,812,465	3,835	1874		1,830,398	
In-crease, 121	In-crease, 1,879	In-crease, 1,759	In-crease, 743	De-crease, 20,526	In-crease, 22,123	In-crease, 1,498	In-crease, 502	Increase or Decrease in ULSTER in 1874.			
38,231	28,115	31,590	23,417	129,297	1,838,248	5,270,746	13,454	1873	}	Total of IRELAND.	
38,296	33,043	34,714	21,399	106,936	1,906,083	5,267,839	12,187	1874		5,402,759	
In-crease, 65	In-crease, 4,930	In-crease, 3,124	De-crease, 2,018	De-crease, 22,411	In-crease, 67,835	De-crease, 2,907	De-crease, 1,267	Increase or Decrease in IRELAND in 1874.			

GENERAL ABSTRACTS, for each County and Province,

Number.	PROVINCES AND COUNTIES, WITH THEIR AREAS (including water) IN STATUTE ACRES.	HORSES, with the purpose for which it was stated they are kept, or intended by the Owners.						CATTLE.		
		Two years old and upwards.			One year old and under two years.	Under one year.	Total Number of Horses.	Milch Cows.	Other	
		Agricultural.	Traffic and Manufactures.	Amusement or Recreation.					Two years old and up- wards.	One year old and under two years.
LEINSTER :										
1	Carlow, . . . { 1873, 221,342 acres, { 1874,	5,179 5,009	232 202	494 423	747 796	774 801	7,426 7,231	14,529 13,880	10,904 11,198	11,377 12,382
2	Dublin, . . . { 1873, 226,414 acres, { 1874,	6,050 5,714	9,576 9,387	3,721 3,335	744 894	903 956	20,094 19,980	15,368 14,913	22,906 24,235	9,861 9,931
3	Kildare, . . . { 1873, 418,436 acres, { 1874,	7,854 7,400	463 825	1,513 1,552	1,903 1,806	1,173 1,258	12,906 12,841	14,186 13,699	42,160 43,324	17,747 18,944
4	Kilkenny, . . { 1873, 509,732 acres, { 1874,	11,572 11,247	456 481	724 744	1,704 1,727	1,606 1,807	16,062 16,006	42,028 40,936	19,020 21,274	27,209 26,692
5	King's, . . . { 1873, 493,985 acres, { 1874,	8,285 8,356	416 396	612 630	1,083 1,847	1,390 1,590	12,696 12,819	16,149 15,974	26,470 27,553	18,558 16,898
6	Longford, . . { 1873, 209,409 acres, { 1874,	3,917 3,845	183 163	249 283	911 974	849 863	6,109 6,128	18,954 18,336	10,817 12,750	14,149 12,425
7	Louth, . . . { 1873, 201,722 acres, { 1874,	7,448 7,220	618 635	593 594	1,142 1,046	1,121 1,189	10,922 10,094	9,686 9,420	11,633 13,550	9,914 10,392
8	Meath, . . . { 1873, 580,083 acres, { 1874,	9,093 8,477	519 585	1,826 1,737	2,173 2,384	1,746 1,599	15,359 14,782	16,776 16,483	101,211 101,654	33,386 31,438
9	Queen's, . . . { 1873, 424,854 acres, { 1874,	8,954 8,639	265 370	817 770	1,373 1,328	1,349 1,459	12,758 12,766	22,024 21,372	22,867 24,633	17,782 19,300
10	Westmeath, . { 1873, 453,468 acres, { 1874,	7,046 6,807	293 211	800 850	1,696 1,758	1,511 1,504	11,346 11,130	16,869 16,007	41,827 42,599	23,396 23,939
11	Wexford, . . . { 1873, 576,588 acres, { 1874,	19,167 18,321	456 570	1,065 1,080	2,478 2,598	2,299 2,820	23,465 23,395	40,703 40,906	17,192 20,803	26,586 29,567
12	Wicklow, . . . { 1873, 500,178 acres, { 1874,	7,578 7,591	486 408	809 762	1,323 1,306	1,041 1,164	11,297 11,231	27,729 26,929	17,714 19,104	16,265 18,076
Total of LEINSTER, { 1873, 4,876,211 acres, { 1874,		102,453 99,636	18,963 14,339	13,285 12,760	37,879 36,604	15,462 16,710	165,040 161,069	234,901 248,735	344,721 362,783	228,416 234,734
Increase or Decrease in LEINSTER in 1874, {		De- crease, 3,817	In- crease, 276	De- crease, 523	In- crease, 786	In- crease, 1,248	De- crease, 2,031	De- crease, 5,746	In- crease, 18,064	In- crease, 11,306

GENERAL ABSTRACTS, 1874.

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of the number of Live Stock in 1873 and 1874.

		SHEEP.				PIGS.					
Cattle.		One year old and upwards.							Years.	Population in 1871.	Number.
Under one year.	Total Number of Cattle.	Ewes.	Tups and Wethers.	Under one year.	Total Number of Sheep.	One year old and upwards.	Under one year.	Total Number of Pigs.			
LAKESHIRE :											
11,724	48,534	28,686	18,773	27,492	72,981	2,602	18,409	21,011	1873	} 51,472	1
11,429	48,889	29,890	17,001	27,806	75,297	2,530	20,155	22,685	1874		
7,147	54,502	36,344	22,961	29,299	86,604	2,795	17,237	20,032	1873	} 405,825	1
6,681	55,760	34,711	20,216	26,374	81,301	2,749	16,647	19,396	1874		
11,495	86,628	64,056	45,634	57,219	166,909	1,812	11,671	13,483	1873	} 84,198	2
10,630	86,567	67,360	44,895	58,284	170,539	1,318	13,369	14,687	1874		
31,835	120,232	49,660	26,312	48,129	124,101	5,834	36,714	42,548	1873	} 109,302	4
29,700	122,612	51,142	29,159	47,897	128,198	5,485	39,904	45,389	1874		
10,590	69,737	51,683	38,856	53,112	143,651	2,515	16,373	18,888	1873	} 75,781	3
10,064	71,689	52,749	43,110	54,184	150,043	2,232	18,603	20,945	1874		
14,256	58,178	13,392	8,042	13,223	34,657	1,806	12,267	14,075	1873	} 64,408	4
12,986	56,453	14,385	7,351	14,582	36,318	1,775	13,457	15,232	1874		
6,585	37,496	27,514	5,610	23,943	37,067	1,364	11,562	12,926	1873	} 79,422	7
6,368	39,725	27,003	5,239	24,374	36,618	1,472	12,404	13,876	1874		
14,968	166,821	92,662	82,097	87,766	243,125	2,127	11,949	14,076	1873	} 99,256	5
14,007	163,552	95,495	83,047	83,819	242,361	1,892	12,605	14,467	1874		
14,118	76,791	42,558	25,411	39,310	107,279	3,033	20,749	23,782	1873	} 77,071	6
13,073	78,379	41,183	28,634	36,571	106,388	3,291	24,170	27,451	1874		
15,940	97,422	54,075	50,296	59,602	164,033	1,231	14,072	15,303	1873	} 78,410	11
15,008	97,548	55,478	54,091	64,121	173,600	1,275	16,109	17,384	1874		
21,080	115,361	83,777	32,609	83,074	159,460	8,130	62,958	61,088	1873	} 132,506	12
22,805	120,803	87,002	37,101	89,984	164,067	8,867	64,627	63,514	1874		
18,407	80,213	79,475	85,383	65,044	209,852	3,076	18,593	21,669	1873	} 78,509	13
17,398	81,405	86,999	58,465	72,555	218,019	3,155	18,176	21,331	1874		
186,065	1,010,335	605,862	400,534	567,273	1,671,689	36,327	242,554	278,881	1873	} Total of Lakeshire.	14
171,937	1,023,381	625,397	406,909	572,581	1,694,837	36,041	250,815	286,857	1874		
De-crease, 10,978	In-crease, 12,446	In-crease, 19,535	In-crease, 8,375	In-crease, 5,268	In-crease, 33,168	De-crease, 286	In-crease, 17,762	In-crease, 17,476	} Increase or De-crease in Lakeshire in 1873.		

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B

GENERAL ABSTRACTS, for each County and Province.

Number.	PROVINCES AND COUNTIES, WITH THEIR AREAS (including water) IN STATUTE ACRES.	HORSES, with the purposes for which they were stated they are kept, or intended by the Owners.						CATTLE.		
		Two years old and upwards.			One year old and under two years.	Under one year.	Total Number of Horses.	Milk Cows.	Other.	
		Agricultural.	Traffic and Manufactures.	Amusement or Recreation.					Two years old and up- wards.	One year old and under two years.
MUNSTER :										
1	Clare, . . . { 1873, 827,994 acres, { 1874,	10,894 10,628	363 371	641 621	1,890 1,939	1,007 1,714	15,491 15,273	58,570 56,329	33,691 33,144	41,433 41,847
2	Cork, E.R., . { 1873, 1,040,284 acres, { 1874,	21,926 21,250	1,991 1,899	2,353 2,270	3,725 3,838	3,445 3,883	33,440 33,140	99,332 98,348	20,923 24,295	35,470 40,381
3	Cork, W.R., . { 1873, 809,399 acres, { 1874,	14,612 14,078	371 264	652 624	1,592 1,541	2,112 2,215	19,339 18,722	81,922 82,014	12,392 15,623	25,363 23,150
4	Kerry, . . . { 1873, 1,185,917 acres, { 1874,	11,400 11,235	512 448	471 556	1,414 1,393	1,755 1,521	15,552 15,152	113,416 100,049	23,471 28,708	22,974 33,134
5	Limerick, . . { 1873, 681,112 acres, { 1874,	11,007 10,457	716 903	1,189 1,099	1,247 1,496	1,141 1,319	15,300 15,274	100,618 97,699	20,578 22,570	24,939 25,931
6	Tipperary, N.R. { 1873, 524,920 acres, { 1874,	8,841 8,507	218 334	732 682	1,532 1,710	1,420 1,502	12,763 12,905	32,504 31,836	25,548 27,903	24,393 27,428
7	Tipperary, S.R. { 1873, 536,811 acres, { 1874,	9,270 8,699	454 517	1,007 1,096	1,508 1,433	1,190 1,343	13,435 13,088	54,263 51,825	20,040 21,781	23,308 24,421
8	Waterford, . . { 1873, 461,533 acres, { 1874,	8,001 8,403	715 609	778 831	1,368 1,443	1,158 1,352	12,680 12,638	44,200 43,717	9,773 11,845	15,122 21,338
	Total of MUNSTER, 6,067,990 acres, { 1873, { 1874,	96,017 93,347	5,340 5,365	7,023 7,778	14,392 14,793	13,818 14,509	130,000 126,192	524,725 571,536	166,422 191,469	228,207 241,729
	Increase or Decrease in MUNSTER in 1874, {	De- crease, 3,270	In- crease, 25	De- crease, 45	In- crease, 491	In- crease, 991	De- crease, 1,808	De- crease, 13,189	In- crease, 25,047	In- crease, 12,526
CONNAUGHT :										
1	Galway, . . . { 1873, 1,586,354 acres, { 1874,	16,529 16,308	700 793	1,232 1,261	3,148 3,312	3,532 3,853	25,231 25,507	42,426 42,385	64,830 66,791	25,939 25,134
2	Leitrim, . . . { 1873, 392,263 acres, { 1874,	2,316 2,111	278 371	191 196	449 412	316 353	3,550 3,443	41,176 39,459	13,841 15,609	17,491 17,979
3	Mayo, . . . { 1873, 1,363,882 acres, { 1874,	12,733 12,246	570 552	573 590	1,554 1,524	2,370 2,347	17,820 17,265	56,720 56,788	54,173 53,096	22,734 20,316
4	Roscommon, . { 1873, 607,691 acres, { 1874,	4,747 4,618	315 344	641 716	1,222 1,249	1,056 1,077	7,981 8,004	30,588 29,957	26,927 28,826	24,537 22,608
5	Sligo, . . . { 1873, 461,753 acres, { 1874,	5,039 4,890	260 332	389 350	879 820	723 695	7,290 7,077	34,992 34,402	19,151 20,008	19,561 18,997
	Total of CONNAUGHT, 4,992,043 acres, { 1873, { 1874,	41,394 40,163	2,213 2,392	8,096 8,109	7,263 7,317	7,997 8,225	61,573 61,296	205,903 202,891	176,922 184,317	139,554 128,139
	Increase or Decrease in CONNAUGHT in 1874, . . . {	De- crease, 1,221	In- crease, 169	In- crease, 83	In- crease, 65	In- crease, 328	De- crease, 576	De- crease, 3,011	In- crease, 5,395	De- crease, 6,154

of the number of Live Stock in 1873 and 1874—continued.

Cattle.		SHEEP.				Pigs.			Years.	Population in 1871.	Number.
		One year old and upwards.		Under one year.	Total Number of Sheep.	One year old and upwards.	Under one year.	Total Number of Pigs.			
		Ewes.	Tups and Wethers.								
43,205	176,899	69,479	37,023	65,238	171,740	6,270	27,342	33,612	1873	MUSEUM :	147,994
37,142	174,481	67,935	38,354	61,024	167,313	6,313	30,452	36,765	1874		
58,778	215,503	98,968	26,124	91,652	216,744	15,540	70,218	85,756	1873	}	339,766
56,583	219,612	105,288	28,138	90,316	223,742	14,563	71,661	86,224	1874		
37,332	156,909	63,504	12,037	50,412	125,933	8,569	42,336	50,905	1873	}	176,280
35,797	162,374	65,312	11,780	51,894	128,976	9,237	40,646	49,873	1874		
49,356	219,217	58,327	17,034	35,771	111,132	9,472	41,416	50,888	1873	}	198,014
44,170	215,081	53,598	16,843	35,517	105,958	7,991	40,528	48,519	1874		
64,877	211,032	30,933	19,953	27,441	78,327	8,660	43,218	51,878	1873	}	191,313
59,032	204,982	32,358	19,886	25,760	78,004	7,285	43,605	50,890	1874		
23,457	106,102	59,956	35,330	60,973	156,259	3,916	27,960	31,876	1873	}	92,886
21,350	108,468	82,144	36,639	62,691	161,474	4,461	28,597	33,038	1874		
30,214	138,825	56,987	30,676	55,506	143,169	5,804	34,783	40,587	1873	}	123,324
33,785	133,612	57,690	33,156	53,097	143,943	5,254	35,843	41,097	1874		
26,326	98,422	25,503	7,661	22,782	55,946	6,573	37,486	44,059	1873	}	122,825
23,205	99,095	28,569	9,745	23,268	64,380	6,534	39,813	48,347	1874		
543,545	1,322,969	463,457	185,838	409,775	1,059,270	64,804	324,737	389,561	1873	Total of MUSEUM :	1,390,402.
512,894	1,317,685	472,894	194,541	406,655	1,073,990	61,628	331,145	392,773	1874		
De-crease, 30,591	De-crease, 5,224	In-crease, 9,237	In-crease, 8,703	De-crease, 3,220	In-crease, 14,720	De-crease, 3,178	In-crease, 6,388	In-crease, 3,212	Increase or De-crease in MUSEUM in 1874.		
22,354	165,619	265,265	234,093	211,627	710,985	7,652	43,278	50,930	1873	CORNMARKET :	249,257
22,316	186,521	258,143	216,868	206,651	681,662	6,654	41,919	48,573	1874		
25,331	98,039	9,124	2,968	8,338	20,430	2,378	15,200	17,478	1873	}	95,324
21,094	93,237	8,152	2,703	7,341	18,196	2,613	15,396	18,009	1874		
27,442	171,070	133,490	72,435	106,094	314,019	5,720	35,769	41,489	1873	}	245,855
26,138	166,382	125,415	72,315	103,716	301,448	5,337	35,819	41,146	1874		
20,988	103,008	73,594	88,706	84,254	206,494	2,969	21,578	24,547	1873	}	141,246
18,768	100,160	73,535	65,285	67,986	208,786	3,410	22,331	25,741	1874		
23,017	96,721	27,353	13,963	25,506	66,844	1,892	13,532	15,444	1873	}	115,311
19,971	93,375	27,316	13,355	24,066	64,737	1,880	13,567	15,247	1874		
119,280	634,357	508,766	392,186	417,821	1,316,779	20,311	129,777	149,888	1873	Total of CORNMARKET :	845,993.
108,337	619,675	492,551	370,525	408,740	1,272,937	19,584	129,032	148,716	1874		
De-crease, 10,943	De-crease, 14,682	De-crease, 16,205	De-crease, 21,859	De-crease, 8,081	De-crease, 45,945	De-crease, 927	De-crease, 345	De-crease, 1,172	Increase or De-crease in CORNMARKET in 1874.		

[continued on page 20.

B 2

GENERAL ABSTRACTS, for each County and Province.

Number.	PROVINCES AND COUNTIES, WITH THEIR AREAS (including water) IN STATUTE ACRES.	HORSES, <i>with the purposes for which it was stated they are kept, or intended by the Owners.</i>						CATTLE.		
		Two years old and upwards.			One year old and under two years.	Under one year.	Total Number of Horses.	Milch Cows.	Other	
		Agricultural.	Traffic and Manufactures.	Amusement or Recreation.					Two years old and up- wards.	Over one year old and under two years.
ULSTER:										
1	Antrim, . . . { 1873, 701,903 acres, { 1874,	21,388 21,130	2,924 2,998	1,196 1,134	1,874 1,635	1,942 1,859	29,324 28,776	85,691 83,854	21,846 24,806	34,764 34,714
2	Armagh, . . . { 1873, 328,076 acres, { 1874,	10,109 9,879	451 698	487 430	448 515	547 662	11,992 12,184	33,723 32,256	9,872 12,180	19,948 20,457
3	Cavan, . . . { 1873, 477,360 acres, { 1874,	7,049 7,030	387 337	436 375	940 924	1,188 1,055	10,000 9,721	50,500 48,838	15,064 16,990	33,729 28,701
4	Donegal, . . . { 1873, 1,193,443 acres, { 1874,	20,214 19,682	505 385	339 320	1,288 1,017	1,493 1,547	23,839 22,951	72,404 69,500	35,136 35,973	38,809 36,549
5	Down, . . . { 1873, 612,495 acres, { 1874,	25,924 25,055	1,278 1,396	1,041 892	1,704 1,920	2,139 2,107	32,086 31,470	58,414 55,539	16,042 18,349	31,965 33,162
6	Fermanagh, . . { 1873, 457,287 acres, { 1874,	5,378 5,244	155 184	307 294	396 437	486 493	6,722 6,052	44,708 43,538	14,608 15,790	14,508 14,838
7	Londonderry, . { 1873, 522,350 acres, { 1874,	17,597 17,338	477 450	451 545	1,207 1,267	1,712 1,865	21,504 21,485	46,590 45,224	14,880 18,379	25,515 26,788
8	Monaghan, . . { 1873, 319,797 acres, { 1874,	8,479 8,335	189 224	352 296	540 550	778 700	10,338 10,165	34,005 33,217	9,025 11,102	18,197 20,637
9	Tyrone, . . . { 1873, 800,206 acres, { 1874,	20,059 20,342	619 537	533 463	1,103 1,020	1,416 1,517	23,730 23,869	76,378 74,501	18,037 21,010	33,433 34,848
	Total of ULSTER, 5,478,867 acres, { 1873, { 1874,	136,195 134,635	6,805 7,209	5,094 4,839	9,566 9,325	11,701 11,805	169,535 167,973	483,008 466,487	154,478 172,579	240,872 244,219
	Increase or Decrease in ULSTER in 1874, {	De- crease, 2,160	In- crease, 224	De- crease, 255	De- crease, 235	In- crease, 184	De- crease, 2,202	De- crease, 10,521	In- crease, 18,101	In- crease, 3,388
	TOTAL OF IRELAND, 20,815,111 acres, { 1873, { 1874,	376,649 368,181	23,501 29,126	20,226 23,430	48,993 50,089	49,079 51,909	532,447 525,770	1,523,136 1,499,619	844,545 911,130	822,966 844,236
	Increase or Decrease in IRELAND in 1874, {	De- crease, 10,468	In- crease, 694	De- crease, 740	In- crease, 1,106	In- crease, 2,731	De- crease, 6,677	De- crease, 38,467	In- crease, 88,607	In- crease, 21,260

of the number of Live Stock in 1872 and 1874—continued.

			SHEEP.				PIGS.					
Cattle.		Total Number of Cattle.	One year old and upwards.		Under one year.	Total Number of Sheep.	One year old and upwards.	Under one year.	Total Number of Pigs.	Years.	Population in 1871.	Number.
Under one year.	Ewes.		Tops and Wethers.									
ULSTER:												
40,846	163,147	41,481	14,985	40,389	66,865	4,691	87,360	42,080	1873	}	403,630	
26,644	159,918	38,338	10,009	32,498	60,838	5,468	42,887	48,353	1874			
21,186	84,724	7,710	1,431	8,807	15,948	2,587	13,805	16,372	1873	}	179,221	
18,840	83,713	7,236	1,135	6,988	15,359	3,035	15,950	18,985	1874			
33,817	123,110	12,745	2,081	12,414	28,140	6,030	25,556	31,586	1873	}	140,555	
30,709	120,298	12,127	3,504	12,601	28,232	6,171	28,159	34,330	1874			
38,384	184,233	89,826	33,710	59,072	182,608	3,084	17,876	20,960	1873	}	217,092	
34,778	176,801	84,514	29,820	58,020	172,354	3,323	17,403	20,728	1874			
39,130	140,071	33,267	10,411	31,728	75,406	4,017	28,810	32,827	1873	}	293,027	
36,238	145,248	28,135	7,712	26,620	62,467	5,245	33,804	41,049	1874			
29,169	103,076	6,977	2,068	6,947	15,992	1,738	13,892	15,630	1873	}	92,088	
23,508	90,794	5,990	1,690	6,019	13,708	2,102	15,180	17,282	1874			
28,587	113,322	22,150	5,544	18,770	46,467	3,749	18,140	21,889	1873	}	173,932	
27,194	112,580	17,632	3,978	17,851	39,461	3,874	23,700	27,664	1874			
23,109	85,936	8,322	1,540	9,281	19,152	2,639	17,129	19,768	1873	}	112,785	
21,364	83,740	8,373	1,199	9,312	18,884	2,602	18,872	21,474	1874			
46,515	174,582	23,731	9,639	20,861	54,231	3,499	21,533	25,032	1873	}	215,608	
42,921	173,280	25,838	6,537	22,281	54,658	3,870	24,913	28,783	1874			
200,543	1,178,981	246,206	82,318	206,232	534,039	32,014	194,115	295,126	1873	}	Total of ULSTER.	
174,806	1,157,872	228,190	65,584	192,185	483,959	35,006	225,958	286,663	1874			
De-crease, 26,447	De-crease, 21,529	De-crease, 18,019	De-crease, 16,734	De-crease, 14,097	De-crease, 48,850	In-crease, 3,676	In-crease, 28,848	In-crease, 32,594	Increase or De-crease in ULSTER in 1874.			
331,433	4,147,102	1,821,404	1,060,375	1,601,151	4,484,520	153,658	890,798	1,044,454	1873	}	Total of IRELAND.	
373,474	4,118,118	1,817,942	1,089,580	1,881,911	4,437,613	153,048	943,451	1,069,694	1874			
De-crease, 78,959	De-crease, 28,989	De-crease, 5,452	De-crease, 21,315	De-crease, 20,140	De-crease, 46,907	De-crease, 613	In-crease, 52,653	In-crease, 52,040	Increase or De-crease in IRELAND in 1874.			

Number of Irish Emigrants from each Province, during the first SIX Months of 1873 and 1874, and the Increase or Decrease in the latter Year, compiled from Returns obtained by the Constabulary, who acted as Enumerators at the several Irish Ports.

Months.	PROVINCES.											
	LEINSTER.				MUNSTER.				ULSTER.			
	1873.	1874.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1873.	1874.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1873.	1874.	In-crease.	De-crease.
	Persons.	Persons.			Persons.	Persons.			Persons.	Persons.		
January, .	300	217	.	83	339	380	41	.	1,477	1,981	504	.
February, .	452	294	.	158	462	1,123	661	.	1,313	1,629	316	.
March, .	1,610	755	.	855	1,626	1,532	.	94	3,077	2,435	.	642
April, .	3,775	1,579	.	2,196	5,102	3,888	.	1,214	5,700	3,441	.	2,259
May, .	4,065	3,900	.	1,165	5,172	5,440	268	.	5,890	4,556	.	1,334
June, .	1,824	1,369	.	455	2,004	2,518	.	86	3,212	2,894	.	318
Total,	12,926	7,114	.	4,912	15,305	14,881	.	424	20,760	16,896	.	3,864

Months.	CONNAUGHT.				FROM WHAT PROVINCE NOT STATED.				IRELAND.			
	1873.	1874.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1873.	1874.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1873.	1874.	In-crease.	De-crease.
	Persons.	Persons.			Persons.	Persons.			Persons.	Persons.		
January, .	152	151	.	1	1	3	2	.	2,269	2,732	463	.
February, .	329	224	.	105	4	.	.	4	2,560	3,270	710	.
March, .	1,578	740	.	838	6	.	.	6	7,897	5,462	.	2,435
April, .	4,369	2,048	.	2,321	.	9	9	.	12,260	10,965	.	1,295
May, .	3,693	2,087	.	1,606	27	1	.	26	18,856	15,584	.	3,272
June, .	1,622	983	.	639	30	2	.	28	9,292	7,768	.	1,524
Total,	11,673	6,885	.	4,788	68	15	.	53	60,140	45,781	.	14,359

The entire number of emigrants (*Irish*) from Ireland, from 1st May, 1851—the period when the Enumeration commenced—to the 30th June last, was 2,298,526 of whom 1,228,863 were males, and 1,069,663 were females.

APPENDIX

EXTIRPATION OF WEEDS.

THE following extracts from the General Abstracts of Tillage and Live Stock for the years 1856 and 1857, submitted by me to the Lord Lieutenant [the late Earl of Carlisle, K.G.], which contain much useful information from the writings of the celebrated Sir John Sinclair and other distinguished individuals, are reprinted in the hope that they may be of service to all those engaged in the cultivation of land, by directing more earnest attention to the subject, and inducing a general determination to extirpate weeds from not only all tillage and grass lands, but also from the highways, sides of railways, canals, and waste lands of Ireland:—

MEASURES TAKEN TO EFFECT THE DESTRUCTION OF WEEDS.

Your Excellency is aware that in connexion with the Agricultural Statistics, I have, for the last four years, had returns made to me by the Constabulary, showing the extent to which weeds are permitted to grow, and, in most cases, to shed their seeds, on the sides of highways, railways, and canals, as well as on the various farms of the country. I beg to take this opportunity of acquainting your Excellency how deeply sensible I am of the kind and considerate manner in which my request to the Judges to bring the subject before the various Grand Juries was received and acted upon by their Lordships, not only on the last Spring circuit, but more particularly during that lately concluded; and I am informed, by communications from almost every county, that the several Grand Juries have given directions to the County Surveyors to take all necessary steps to prevent the great injury to the farming classes which has hitherto arisen from the growth of weeds along the sides of public roads. I would here take the liberty of remarking that your Excellency's observations at the meeting of the Royal Dublin Society last April, and also at the late cattle show of the Royal Agricultural Society, at Athlone, as to the lamentable prevalence of weeds in Ireland, have had the happiest effect. In answer to the circular which I took the liberty of addressing to the Directors

of railways and canals, I have to acknowledge the receipt, in several instances, of very courteous replies; copies of these I have felt it to be my duty to forward for insertion in the public papers, feeling that the assistance of the Press, which has hitherto been most liberally afforded to me on all occasions, is of the greatest importance, by making generally known the vast injury and loss which arise from the unchecked growth of weeds on the farms and along the highways of the country. Every observer, and even the general traveller, must be struck with the neglect on this important matter, which, with few exceptions, exists in almost every part of Ireland.

I beg to mention that, having brought this subject before the Commissioners of National Education, and suggested to them the many advantages that must arise by instructing their teachers to direct the attention of the children in the numerous schools under their control to the importance of destroying weeds when found growing on their parents' farms, I have received a reply promising every assistance in the matter, and have furnished to Mr. Macdonnell,* the Resident Commissioner, 1,000 copies of my circular to County Surveyors, to be distributed by the teachers then in training, on their return home; and I have learned that 6,000 of these circulars have since been procured by the Commissioners, for circulation amongst their schools. The Committee of the Church Education Society have also promised their valuable assistance with the pupils in their schools, and also the Poor Law Commissioners, through the medium of the masters and teachers in workhouses, by instructing the children in attendance as to the advantages which must arise to the community by the practice of destroying weeds. The Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools have also promised their friendly aid.

The Masters in Chancery, upon all of whom I waited personally, have unanimously taken the subject into their consideration, and, I am informed, purpose recommending that an order should be issued requiring receivers over the estates under the Court to use their influence with the tenantry to keep their farms free from weeds.

The Commissioners of Public Works have also directed the removal of weeds from all works in progress under their control—such as those of arterial drainage, roads, &c.

The following extract from the works of that eminent man and real patriot, Sir John Sinclair, first President of 'The Board of Agriculture,' quoted in the 'Rural Cyclopædia,' will be read with interest, as exhibiting the immense loss arising from the neglect of removing weeds from growing crops, and is highly valuable, as being the record of actual experiment:—

Sir John
Sinclair
on the
Destruction
of Weeds.

"All plants which grow naturally among a crop that has been sown, may be regarded as enemies to that crop. The destruction of such plants, therefore, must be considered as one of the most important branches of the agricultural art; for if that is neglected, or even but

* Now The Right Hon. A. Macdonnell, Bart.

"slovenly performed, the crops may be reduced to the amount of one-fourth or one-third of a fair average crop, even upon the very best soils. Besides, it merits consideration, that if weeds are suffered to exist, the full advantages of manuring land, and many other improvements, can only be partially obtained. Nor is this all: the mixture of weeds in the soil prevents the crops from receiving the beneficial influence of the atmosphere,—sucks up that moisture so essential for the growth of the crop sown,—tends more than any other circumstance to injure the crop when lodged by violent winds or heavy rains,—augments the risks at harvest (for a crop that is clean may be ready for the stack-yard in much less time than is required to harvest it when incumbered with weeds),—and the seeds of these intruders deteriorate the quality of the grain. Notwithstanding all the injuries thence sustained, how many are there who hardly ever attempt to remove weeds in an effectual manner! This negligence is the more to be blamed, because, were farmers at the trouble of collecting all sorts of weeds before they had formed their seeds, and of mixing them with rich earth, with lime, or fermenting them with dung, they would soon be reduced into a soft pulpy mass, and in this way a pernicious nuisance might be converted into a valuable manure. Various experiments have been tried, to ascertain the positive advantage derived from carefully weeding one part of a field, and leaving another part undone; among these, the following, made with peculiar accuracy, may be safely relied on:—

Sir John
Sinclair
on the
destruction
of Weeds.

"1. Seven acres of light gravelly land were fallowed, and sown broadcast with wheat; one acre was measured off, and not a weed was pulled out of it; the other six were carefully weeded. The unweeded acre produced 18 bushels; the six weeded acres 135 bushels, or $22\frac{1}{2}$ per acre, which is $4\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, or $\frac{1}{2}$ more produce in favour of weeding.—2. A six-acre field was sown with barley, in fine till, and well manured. The weeding, owing to a great abundance of charlock, cost 12s. per acre. The produce of an unweeded acre was only 13 bushels; of the weeded, 28. Difference in favour of weeding, 15 bushels per acre, besides the land being so much cleaner for succeeding crops.—3. Six acres sown with oats, one acre ploughed but once, and unmanured, produced only 17 bushels. Another six acres, ploughed three times, manured, and weeded, produced 37 bushels. This experiment proves, that oats require good management, and will pay for it as well as other crops. Ten bushels of the increased produce may be fairly attributed to the weeding, and the other ten to the manure.

"The importance of weeding, both to the individual and to the public, is such, that it ought to be enforced by law. At any rate, a regulation of police, for fining those who harbour weeds, the seeds of which may be blown into their neighbours' ground, can have no injustice in principle. In England, the petty constable might be required, by precept from the high constable, to give in presentments to the Quarter Sessions, containing a list of all persons who suffered weeds to run to seeds in their hedges or lands, such presentments to be particularly specified to the Court. Those referring to the coltsfoot, to be given in at the Lady-day sessions; and those referring to thistles, rag-weed, &c., to be given in at the Midsummer sessions. An order of Court might then be made for the immediate removal of such nuisances; and if not complied with, the offender should be fined a sum not exceeding five pounds, one-half to the informer, and the other half to go for the relief of the

Sir John
Steuart
on the
destruction
of Weeds.

"poor. If, in consequence of such a system being enforced, *from four to five bushels of wheat, fifteen bushels of barley, and ten bushels of oats additional* were raised in all the fields in the kingdom, *whose crops are injured by weeds*, the benefit would be well worth the labour and expense, and the farmers would soon find that however anxious they may be to have their lands tithe-free, yet to have them weed-free is of still greater importance. On the whole, keeping his land in a clean state ought to be a principal object with every farmer; and if this be not carefully attended to, he may rest assured of paying dearly for his neglect. But the losses which he suffers do not remedy the injury which the public sustains from his slovenly conduct.

"In several countries the legislature has interposed its authority for the destruction of weeds. By a regulation in France, *a farmer may sue his neighbour, who neglects to destroy the thistles upon his land at the proper seasons, or may employ people to do it at the other's expense.* In Denmark, there is a law to oblige the farmers to root up the corn marigold, *Chrysanthemum segetum*. But the oldest regulation for that purpose was probably in Scotland; a statute of Alexander II., about the year 1220, having been directed against that weed, which was considered to be peculiarly pernicious to corn fields. The statute is very short, and ably expressed. *It denounces that man to be a traitor 'who poisons the king's lands with weeds, and introduces into them a host of enemies.'*—Bondsmen who had this plant in their corn, *were fined a sheep for each stalk.* Under the authority of that law, Sir William Grierson, a Scottish baron, was accustomed to hold *Goul courts*, for the express purpose of fining the farmers in whose growing crops three heads or upwards of that weed were found. Such a plan, if generally adopted, would soon extirpate weeds; and as by a clause introduced into many leases (and which ought to be universal), the landlord is empowered to cut down these weeds, at the expense of the tenant, if the latter neglect to do it himself, it is much to be regretted that so useful a regulation should not be generally enforced. The policy of some legislative provision for this purpose has been frequently suggested. A clause enforcing the extirpation of weeds in hedges along the sides of roads, passed the House of Commons, but was thrown out by the Lords. It is to be hoped that so useful a measure, even on a more extensive scale, will soon be passed into a law. By some it is recommended that the destruction of weeds on the sides of roads should be done at the parish expense; others, by the road-surveyors, and the expense to be stated in their accounts.

"Though it is impracticable to extirpate annual weeds altogether, either by summer fallow or turnip culture, yet the number of weeds may be so much lessened, by these means, as to prevent them from materially injuring corn crops. Two measures are necessary for that purpose,—first, to bring the seeds within the limits of vegetation; and secondly, to destroy every weed that vegetates, thus regularly lessening the original stock. As the seeds of annual weeds are naturally furnished with the means of preservation while stored in the ground, it is absolutely necessary to bring them into life before their destruction can be effected. This is accomplished by the operations of ploughing, harrowing, and rolling, by which the ground is pulverized and reduced, whilst the seeds are brought to the surface, or so near it as to allow their speedy vegetation. All the seeds within two or three inches of the surface, may be expected to vegetate according to circumstances, such as richness of soil, fineness of mould, and the degree of moisture which may prevail when the above processes are executed. When the first crops of

"weeds appear above the surface, a second ploughing should be given, by Sir John
 "which that crop will instantly be destroyed, and a foundation laid for Sinclair
 "producing another crop. Harrowing and rolling should again be resorted on the
 "to; and in this way, several crops may be annihilated, in warm and destruction
 "moist seasons, before the turnips are drilled, more especially if attention of Weeds.
 "has been paid to harrow and roll the land after every ploughing, so that
 "sufficient moisture may be preserved to insure vegetation. When under
 "turnips, both the hand and horse hoe should be constantly employed
 "whenever weeds appear; and upon no account should a single one
 "be allowed to run to seed. *By paying due attention to these measures,*
 "*many farms which formerly were a nest of seed-weeds, are now brought*
 "*into such order that the weeds are kept under subjection and easily man-*
 "*aged.* In this way the destruction of many annual weeds may be accom-
 "plished, before the turnip-seed is sown, and the seeds of almost every
 "annual weed locked up in the ground, may be brought to the surface,
 "and within the reach of vegetation. Besides, the several horse and hand
 "hoes given to the turnip crop, serve to destroy every annual weed as
 "fast as it appears; and if the seed-furrow given the corn crop which
 "succeeds the turnips, is not taken deeper than the horse-hoeing furrow
 "(and a greater depth is unnecessary), few weeds will appear in the corn
 "crop which afterwards follows. As grass-seeds are always sown in the
 "improved districts, with the corn crop that succeeds turnips, no annual
 "weeds can appear in that season; but it very often happens in the suc-
 "ceeding year, from ploughing the clover-stubble a little deeper than the
 "seed-furrow given to the crop which succeeded turnips, that a fresh
 "growth of annual weeds make their appearance. To get the better of
 "these enemies some experienced farmers have hand-weeded the crops
 "which followed clover, at an expense not less than from ten to twenty
 "shillings per acre, and evidently much to their advantage; whilst others
 "have resorted to the drill husbandry to get quit of annual weeds. The
 "great object of both was, to procure clean crops, each being perfectly satis-
 "fied that if their crops were full of weeds, the productive powers of the
 "soil would not only be deteriorated, but that the amount or value of those
 "crops would be also considerably lessened.

"Owing to the nature of the soil and climate, many perennial weeds
 "are much more abundant in Scotland, and also in Ireland, Wales, and
 "the north and north-west of England, than in other countries, where the
 "soil is drier, and the climate more temperate.

"With regard to docks and thistles, the method of getting rid of them
 "is perfectly obvious; all that is required being to follow the ground well
 "in the first instance, and to exterminate the plants afterwards whenever
 "they appear. This may be accomplished by pulling them up by the root,
 "in every corn field, when the weather is moist, and cutting them over in
 "all the grass lands before they have perfected their seeds; though cutting
 "should only be resorted to when the weather is so dry as to prevent pulling
 "these weeds out of the ground. The same attention ought to be paid to the
 "destruction of nettles, ragweeds, mugwort, and the mountain daisy. Every
 "one of these weeds ought to be pulled up by the root, if that measure can
 "be accomplished; but where that is impracticable, they ought to be regularly
 "cut down by the scythe, in which way their increase will at least be pre-
 "vented. This operation should always be performed before their seeds
 "arrive at maturity, otherwise the ground may thence be stocked with fresh
 "seed, to an extent not much less than if the cutting process had been
 "neglected."

Fecundity
of Weeds.

The injurious effects of weeds are scarcely to be wondered at, when their extraordinary and almost incredible fecundity is taken into consideration. The following table (with the exception of the Irish names, for which I am indebted to Dr. O'Donovan and Mr. Eugene Curry, M.R.I.A.) is taken from Professor Buckman, as quoted in the *Gardener's Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette* on the 12th of July, 1856:—

"Seedling of Weeds.—One of the most fertile sources of the continuation of weeds is that of constantly allowing them to seed on the land. Now the enormous increase which may result from seedling may be gathered from the following table of observations made upon a few of our common species:—

Botanical Name.	Irish Name.	Common Name.	No. of Flowers.	No. of Seeds each Flower may bear.	No. of Seeds on a single Plant.
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> .	Grassnag.	Groundsel.	180	50	6,500
<i>Stellaria media</i> .	Flioth.	Chickweed.	80	10	500
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> .	Ceolú-athuile.	Corn cockle.	7	370	2,590
<i>Lycalis dioica</i> .	Bóe-fadhaín.	Campion.	25	137	3,425
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i> .	Gallain dearg.	Red poppy.	100	500	50,000
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> .	Carraun buíche.	Charlock.	400	10	4,000
<i>" nigra</i> .	Sgeallán dubh.	Black mustard.	200	6	1,200
<i>Gallium tricornis</i> .	Colainleach lespíka.	Corn bed-straw.	100	2	200
<i>" aparina</i> .	Lúthán-an-íadhaí.	Clivers (Clavens).	550	2	1,100
<i>Sonchus oleracea</i> .	Fothannan.	Corn sow-thistle.	100	190	19,000
<i>Cerisus rutana</i> .	Fothannan cumhra.	Musk thistle.	25	150	3,750
<i>Achillea cynapium</i> .	Piomas.	Fool's parsley.	300	2	600
<i>Eruca tetrasperma</i> .	Rolláist.	Tara.	60	3	180
<i>Daucus carota</i> .	Carraun Fadhaín.	Wild carrot.	600	2	1,200
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i> .	Moscánadhafa.	Wild parsnip.	600	2	1,200

"Now, it is not likely that each individual plant would always perfect the quantities of seeds above tabulated; but the list gives a pretty accurate notion of the numbers of seeds which might be perfected under circumstances favourable to their development, and from it will at once be gathered the important practical fact that, allowing for the casualties to which seeds are constantly liable, yet enough would be left, where seedling is allowed but for a single year, to give trouble for many years after.

"It cannot be too earnestly urged THAT WEEDS BE DESTROYED BEFORE THEIR SEEDS ARE RIFE, OR INDEED NEARLY RIFE, as the ripening process is often completed by the juices in the stems, especially of pulled weeds: hence groundsel and thistles, when pulled and laid by, as we saw last year, yet ripened much seed; and their involucre, opening in the sun, were wafted on the breeze to an indefinite distance; and it should be recollected that one—the primary head—may ripen long before the rest, so that a tolerable weed-growth may follow from a delay which has allowed only this one head to perfect its seed. Each plant of groundsel might in this way be increased 50 fold, each plant of corn sow-thistle 190 fold, and a single head of musk-thistle may produce an increase of 150 fold."

And in the number of the same useful periodical for November 18, 1854, another list of weeds is given, from which the following are selected :—

Botanical Name.	Irish Name.	Common Name.	Number of Seed vessels on Flowers to each Plant.	Number of Seeds to each Vessel or Flower.	Number of Seeds to each Plant	When gathered in 1854.
<i>Capsella bursa pastoris</i> , .	Sraifidin, . .	Shepherd's purse, .	150	x 80 =	4,500	Sept. 9
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i> , .	Lus-an-air, . .	Common hedge mustard, . .	450	" 12 "	5,400	Oct. 13
<i>Hieracium sphondylium</i> , .	Gerna (or Go- raucha), . .	Cow parsnip, . .	2,500	" 2 "	5,000	Aug. 17
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>, .	. . . . .	Corn bind weed, .	200	" 3 "	600	Sept. 26
<i>Galeopsis ladanum</i> , . .	Neannatog, . .	Henbit nettle, . .	800	" 4 "	2,000	" "
<i>Bartsia odorata</i>, . . . .	. . . . .	Red bartsia, . .	400	" 12 "	4,800	Oct. 1
<i>Leontodon taraxacum</i> , .	Cnaiscarbhan, .	Dandelion, . .	12	" 170 "	2,040	" "
<i>Centaurea jacobea</i> , . .	Gob-an-Ghnuisla,	Hardhead scabious,	50	" 80 "	4,000	Sept. 10
" <i>nigra</i>, . . . . .	. . . . .	Blackhead, . .	50	" 60 "	3,000	" "
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> , . . .	Brean-lus, . .	Stinking chemonilla,	271	" 150 "	40,650	Sept. 25
<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i> , .	Moldhar, . . .	Mayweed, . . .	150	" 300 "	45,000	Oct. 14
<i>Chrysanthemum leucan- themum</i> ,	Easpag-ban, . .	Ox-eye daisy, . .	45	" 300 "	13,500	Sept. 18
<i>Arcium lappa</i> ,	Copog tathnail, .	Burdock, . . .	613	" 40 "	24,520	Oct. 1
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> , . .	Blancht Rheotho- dan,	Sow thistle, . .	100	" 250 "	25,000	Sept. 6
<i>Carduus acutella</i>, . . .	. . . . .	Stemless thistle, .	6	" 100 "	600	Sept. 8
<i>Papaver dubium</i>, . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	100	" 600 "	60,000	Oct. 14
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , . .	Copog sraido, . .	Common dock, . .	13,000	" "	13,000	Sept. 15
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>, . .	. . . . .	Dwarf spurge, . .	800	" 3 "	1,500	Sept. 19
" <i>pepus</i> ,	Geirraimh, . .	Petty spurge, . .	400	" 3 "	1,200	Sept. 11
" <i>hifoscapia</i>, . . . .	. . . . .	Sun spurge, . .	324	" 3 "	972	Oct. 14
<i>Lapsana communis</i> , . .	Duilleog bhaighie,	Nipple wort, . .	560	" 15 "	8,400	Sept. 25

Annexed are the names of some of the most noxious weeds, with compound flowers, which I have been informed by Doctor Mackay, author of the 'Flora Hibernica,' grow wild in Ireland, and all of which produce seeds in the greatest quantity :—

COMMON NAMES.	BOTANICAL NAMES.
1. Spear plume thistle.	<i>Cnicus lanceolatus</i> .
2. Marsh plume thistle.	<i>Cnicus palustris</i> .
3. Creeping plume thistle.	<i>Cnicus arvensis</i> .
4. Welled thistle.	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i> .
5. Slender-flowered thistle.	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i> .
6. Dandelion.	<i>Leontodon taraxacum</i> .
7. Ox-eye daisy.	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i> .
8. Corn marygold.	<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> .
9. Rough hawkbit.	<i>Apargia hirsuta</i> .
10. Autumnal hawkbit.	<i>Apargia autumnalis</i> .

Of so much importance has the eradication of weeds been considered in the Colony of Victoria, that an Act has been recently passed to insure their destruction; the owner or occupier of the land on which they grow may be ordered by a Justice of the Peace to destroy them, and is liable to a fine if he does not comply—a course which, if followed in this country, would be

gratefully received by the farming classes, and be productive of great national benefit, as, according to the experiments of Sir John Sinclair, already referred to, the land, WHEN KEPT FREE FROM WEEDS, WILL YIELD A MUCH GREATER AMOUNT OF PRODUCE.

It will be gratifying to your Excellency to learn that I have received from very many influential parties, to whom I am personally unknown, communications expressive of their entire approval of what has been termed by some of them the 'National Crusade against Weeds.' I also learn, from copies of almost every journal in Ireland, kindly sent to me by the editors, that the Press has, without exception, given its powerful aid to the same object—one which most happily has received your Excellency's marked approbation. And I confidently trust, from the opinions so unequivocally expressed in every quarter, that much and permanent good will be effected by bringing the present great neglect on this subject prominently under public observation.

In the observations on the Agricultural Abstracts for last year [1856] I had the honour of stating the measures taken by me to call public attention to the great injury and loss caused by the non-removal of weeds from farms and the sides of high roads, railways, and canals. I am now informed, that in some localities improvement has taken place; but on account of the unchecked growth of weeds in so many places, as well as in the fields and hedge-rows of the slovenly and careless farmer, the efforts of those desirous to effect their eradication are, in a great measure, frustrated. To the extensive circulation of the information given in the Abstracts for 1856, as authorized by your Excellency, and to the able appeals on the subject which have appeared in the public press, this improvement may be attributed; *until legislation, however, affords some remedy to those who keep their lands free from weeds against such parties as allow them to grow and seed, to the injury of the adjoining lands, the practice of clean agriculture in Ireland cannot, I fear, be hoped for*; because, if a farmer sees that the expense which he incurs in removing weeds is thrown away, owing to his careless neighbour poisoning the fields around with the seeds of noxious plants, he will naturally feel that it is hopeless to eradicate them, as they are replaced by the vigorous stock growing on his neighbour's holding. With a view to keep this subject before the agricultural community, I, last spring, issued a circular to the several Assistant Barristers, soliciting their aid. It was most courteously received, many of them having addressed the parties attending Quarter Sessions, on the great advantages which must arise, owing to the increased yield of land when kept free from weeds, as is clearly shown by the experiments of that eminent and distinguished man, the late Sir John Sinclair. [See page 25.]

So important has this subject become, that for an essay upon it a prize was awarded by the Royal Agricultural Society of England last year;—the successful author, Professor Buckman, of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, gives the following practical methods for removing weeds from the soil:—

"On the Extirpation of Weeds.—The extirpation of weeds would appear in theory a much easier matter than in practice it is found to be, for the seeds of wild plants constituting weeds are so universally distributed, that, though they may differ in kind at different places, yet, wherever a crop will grow, there also will weeds flourish, if allowed. There would also appear to be species of weeds peculiar to certain crops, species which appear in one crop and not in another; the charlock is a familiar example of this, as it will often make its appearance in great quantities after the breaking up of pasture or old sainfoin lea, where it had not been observed before for years. Evidence of this may also be obtained from the vast quantities of wild plants which spring up in woods after trees and underwood have been removed; so quickly and so abundantly, indeed, as to convince us that their seeds must have lain dormant, only awaiting the required circumstances to vegetate. Newly-formed earthworks frequently cause the sudden growth of wild plants, which have never before been observed in the district. Hence, however careful we may be to destroy weeds in one crop, we shall assuredly have some fresh species with the next, as well as fresh plants of the same, in consequence of dormant seeds having been brought within the power of growth by newly stirring the soil; from which it is obvious that weeds are not to be eradicated by one effort, however vigorous it may be.

"The getting rid of weeds would appear to resolve itself into the two following heads:—

"1st. *Destroying those already in the soil.*

"2nd. *Preventing others being sown.*

"The first of these must be considered with reference to those weeds which are already rooted in the soil, that is, weeds of a perennial character, as well as those annual weeds the seeds of which have been scattered at different periods.

"Perennial and deep-rooted weeds can only be got rid of by properly preparing the fallows, to which end farm-work should always be got as forward as possible. One of the most common causes of the continuance of weeds is, that work is delayed until it is time to get in the seed for the crop, when untoward weather, want of time, or some other cause, prevents the possibility of that thorough cleaning which is necessary to get rid of weeds. Seed is thus put into foul land, which must wait until a more convenient season for being cleaned.

"In the usual process of arable farming, preparation of the soil by ploughing, scuffling, harrowing, and exposure to sunshine and drought, clears the land of a great quantity of weeds; but if we observe the depth to which the underground stems of couch, coltsfoot, bindweed, and such-like plants penetrate, we shall see at once that this is not sufficient to exterminate the enemy; but, having done this in the most careful manner, we may observe that there are still spots left here and there in a field where these weeds flourish. Now, it appears to me that the best method of dealing with a case like this, is to go carefully over the ground after the crop is removed, and dig up the weed-patches with a three-pronged fork. With this implement they can be followed in their direction and depth; and thus, by a simple employment of day-labour, these isolated nurseries of mischief may, if not too numerous, be readily, perfectly, and cheaply broken up. Indeed there is no mode so efficient as this; and, from long observation of the natural history of weeds of this kind in arable fields, I am convinced that more may be done by the fork towards the complete eradication of deep-rooted weeds than by any other means.

"There are some of these deep-rooted weeds which are exceedingly

"troublesome in pastures, such as the stinging-nettle, butter-bar, and bistort. These occur in patches, some in the corners of the field, others in wet places, while the bistort will be found occupying isolated spots in the centres of meadows. These cannot well be attacked by digging them up. The best plan of treating them is to regularly mow them down, when their stems grow a few inches above the surface of the ground. The principle upon which this is recommended is, that the leaves are absolutely necessary to the extension of the whole of the parts of a plant; if, therefore, these are continued to be destroyed in proper time, the extinction of the underground stems is ultimately insured; it will not do, however, to leave them until the usual period of mowing, as at that time the plants will have advanced to maturity, and the leaf function have been fully performed. An observance of this law will be of great use in destroying many weeds, in situations where the roots cannot be got at; let it simply be borne in mind, as the leaves are the lungs of the plant, never in such cases to allow the lungs to develop themselves.

"*The prevention of Weeds-sowing.*—Weeds are constantly being sown under many circumstances, the chief of which may be stated as follows:—

"Weeds are sown with the seed for the crop.

"Weeds are spread over the land by manures.

"Weeds are perpetuated by being allowed to seed.

"Weeds are disseminated from road-sides, and waste land, or from a badly managed farm to a good one, chiefly by 'flying seeds.'

"*Sowing of Seeds.*—That weeds are perpetuated notwithstanding the most careful preparation of the land, by sowing them with our seeds, is a fact too well known to be disputed. Six years ago we saw a field sown with foreign flax-seed, which came up full of black mustard,—*Sinapis nigra*, much to the injury of the crop: this has ever since been a troublesome weed in the field, and has even been the means of disseminating it over a great portion of a farm on which it was previously almost unknown. Again, many weeds are sown with clover seeds, sainfoin, and the like, which, though they may not make way during the covering of the ground with the crop, may yet appear in some future crop. From this it follows, that too much care cannot be taken to get clean seed, and it wants but little botanical skill to detect the presence of weeds in a sample. Pure or clean seed is even worth paying a greater price for, as the reverse may entail trouble and expense for years. Any mechanical processes, therefore, which can be made available for cleaning seed are well worthy of patronage. A seedsman who will be careful in the preparation and collection of seed deserves the best support. In order also to assist in this matter, farmers should be particular not to allow a dirty patch to stand for seed, although it may be 'the most profitable thing they could do with it.'

"*Weeds and Manure.*—It is too much the custom to consider that the power of germination of seeds is destroyed by decomposition in manure heaps. That some are so, when the manure has been thoroughly decomposed, there can be no doubt; but many are not, and with those that are the process is too uncertain to be relied upon. We have seen quantities of pulled docks and of crow-garlic thrown upon a heap to decay, and afterwards noticed vetches manured therewith to be full of these troublesome weeds. Neglected manure-heaps are often covered with a profuse vegetation, which thereon produce enough weed-seeds to stock a farm. In these cases the plants rendering the original seed worse, doubtless, mixed with the straw of which the manure was made, and yet, notwithstanding the vicissitudes they had to contend with, were not

"destroyed. Too much care, therefore, cannot be taken to prevent this source of mischief, to which end it will always be found best to burn pulled weeds; and in harvesting corn, docks, thistles, and the like, should not be bound up with the sheaves, but, if practicable, left standing, and afterwards destroyed.

"Weeding should be done as early as possible, either with the horse-hoe, common hoe, or sometimes the Dutch hoe, and, when thus early cut down, may safely be left to wither on the ground; but it should be borne in mind that if any individual plants amongst them are shedding their seed at the time, and are not taken away, the very hoeing insures its safe plantation.

"It is precisely in this way that coltsfoot is often much increased. The flowers of this plant appear in spring before the leaves. By the time the seed is ripe the leaves become conspicuous; the hoe is then set to work to cut down the latter, by which the ripened seeds are sown, when, if left, they might have flown away to a distance. Now, it may be that the roots of the coltsfoot—for it is not destroyed by the hoe—are forked out after the crop has been gathered; but the sown seeds will insure that the pest shall give us some more work to do at a future time. The patches of coltsfoot flowers should, therefore, be cut down as soon as they appear, and by this means we not only spoil the crop of seeds, but cripple the growth of the plant by cutting off the leaf-buds. Many other instances of a like kind might be adduced tending to show that a knowledge of the natural history of weeds is of great importance in enabling us to subdue them.

"*Dissemination of Weeds from Wastes.*—This is a matter that requires serious consideration, and, having once obtained correct views upon the subject, should incite to prompt and energetic action. It is well known that some of the most pernicious weeds are to be found amongst the *Compositæ*, a natural order of plants to which the *Sonchus*, *Leontodon*, *Carduus*, *Pissillago*, *Senecio*, and *Centaurea* belong. Now, in all these plants we may observe that their seeds are crowned with a feathery down—the *Pappus* of botanists—which acts as a tiny parachute, enabling such seeds to be wafted here and there by the slightest breeze, and thus they float for miles. It, therefore, follows that however particular we may be in trying to subdue them in our cultivated fields, yet waste places and waysides, where many species like to dwell, if not attended to will ever afford a nursery for many of the most objectionable weeds. Waste places, therefore, on every farm—if there be such—cannot too carefully be looked to in this matter; and, if the principle be fully recognised, the keeping roads in order, especially in rural districts, will comprehend weeding the waysides. We once saw a farmer employ men, in a not over busy time, in mowing thistles on a good breadth of road running through the middle of his farm, but, unfortunately, the seed was ripe when this was done, and, as the thistles were left where they fell, the dissemination of their seeds was not prevented. This, therefore, is a matter which seems to belong to the overseer of the road, and the plea of idle time should never be recognised.

"But, unfortunately, it is not always that these evils emanate from mere waste places and roadsides. One bad and dirty farmer may preserve weeds enough to continue a supply to a wide range of neighbours; in which case it would not seem unreasonable to call upon him to render compensation for damages.

"The weeds of hedge-banks and fences are innumerable: many wild

"flowers, not in our list, by growing in such situations, are weeds. Couch, cleavers, bindweed, and larynx are among the most troublesome, especially when they occur in young quicks. To insure the growth of the fence these must be removed, and, indeed, should never be suffered to make head. This can be done with a small fork, handled with judgment, so as not to disturb the roots of the hedge. By this means we may not only remove the weeds, but the operation contributes to the fertility of the soil, and thus the hedge more quickly overtops what, but for this attention, would completely smother it. In this case, as in most others, it is safer to burn what we remove than to remove it to the dungheap or to let it lie about. We knew a farmer who offered his cottagers 3d. the bushel for weed ashes; and as a description of the manner in which a cottage family proceeded to make them may be useful and interesting, it is here given:—The refuse of the garden was first put together in a heap, and covered with turf from the roadside; this, on being fired, burnt in a smothered manner; the children brought all the weeds and refuse they could collect from time to time, and added it green to the rest, and, by the occasional addition of turfs, a continued smothered fire was kept up for weeks; in one cottage garden was as much as fifty bushels, and the process still going on. With these ashes the farmer always did well in his turnip crop, so that not only was an exterminating warfare carried on with our enemies, but they were destined ultimately to be converted into food; and we cannot better conclude this essay than by saying—Always destroy the life and reproductive power of weeds, even by fire, if necessary."

And on this subject, one of our most observant and popular authors, the late Mr. Charles Dickens, in a number of that useful periodical, 'Household Words,' after gracefully alluding to the exertions for the eradication of weeds, which were being made in Ireland, remarks:—

"Inasmuch, as Nature is resolved to spread her carpet where she can, and man knows very well that the green carpet with its pretty little flower patterns, must be taken up wherever the ground is to be tilled for special uses of his own, the need of constant watchfulness is obvious enough. To say that over a given space there shall grow nothing but wheat, if we mean earnestly what we are saying, is to declare war against all other growths which set up their own claims to the same land. It is a case of war arising out of territorial aggression. The farmers seize upon a territory occupied by various races of plants known to them by the rough general name of The Weeds. The weeds are got under, subdued, in a great measure extirpated, and the farmers then set up an iron rule over the soil, upon which they establish in rich colonies their own subjects, the cereals and green crops. The farmers justify their first aggression. The well-being of mankind depends, they say, on the predominance of the two races of cereals and green crops. What do the weeds care for this reasoning? The race of man has always trampled on them. They are the first owners of the soil. They claim it. They watch, therefore, the opportunity to rise, and every great rising of the weeds is attended with a frightful massacre of the new race. There is no mercy shown even to the newly born, whether of the green crops or the cereals. Thousands upon thousands of them are without pity smothered by the weeds, while others perish in their prime.

"Let us observe the common case of a fortified town in possession of

"a cereal colony, such as we may take a wheat field to be, walled with its hedges, moated with its ditches, and having its one or two great gates kept carefully closed. Not only is it frequently in England, and almost invariably in Ireland, plagued by the insubordination of the weeds allowed to live within its bounds, and to lie there at the root of general society; but it is, every summer, regularly besieged by ragged regiments. There are the chickweeds, the hawkbits, the thistles, with their white plumes waving and their lances shouldered, the poppies, reddest of republicans, the black mustards, whose family, perhaps, has caused more tears to be shed than any race, except that of the onions. There are the nettles with their poisoned barbs, the dandelions each with fire upon his head. These storm the field, master the outworks, and do not a little mischief to the regiments that lift their shining spears within.

"It would appear that we are within the truth in saying that, where the weeds are not kept under, there is a loss incurred of one-fourth of the crop. The weeds rob the growth with which they are mixed of some part of the food which the ground holds for the use of plants; they clog the ground mechanically; they keep air and light from the young seed; they injure the crop seriously when there is high wind or heavy rain; they delay the processes of harvesting and stacking; and, by so doing, increase the farmer's risk; while the grain that has ripened under all these disadvantages, goes to the stack worse corn than it would have been had it been grown unaccompanied by weeds.

"The suppression of weeds has been considered in France a duty not unworthy of being enforced by law. A French farmer may sue his neighbour who neglects to destroy the thistles upon his land at the proper season, or he may employ people to do it at his neighbour's cost. In Denmark, there is a law to oblige farmers to root up the corn-marigold. The oldest regulation against the corn-marigold was, probably, that in a Statute of Alexander the Second of Scotland; which, in or about the year 1220, denounced that man to be a traitor who poisons the King's lands with weeds and introduces into them a host of enemies. Bondsmen who had this plant in their corn were fined a sheep for each stalk, and a Scottish baron held what were called Goul Courts, for the purpose of fining farmers in whose growing crops three or more heads of corn-marigold could be detected.

"In modern times a clause of a Bill which enforced the extirpation of weeds in hedges and along roadsides, passed our English House of Commons, but was thrown out by the Lords. Yet it is possible that great advantage might result from one or two legal provisions of this kind. The loss by weeds in England is not very great; in Ireland the fields are overrun with them."

At the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society, at Waterford, the following earnest and emphatic observations, which cannot fail to have a most beneficial effect, were addressed by His Excellency to a large and influential assemblage of landed proprietors and agriculturists:—

"I know that the total extinction of weeds must be a work of time, and of gradual and continued effort, like all other great works;—but Delhi has not yet fallen—and Irish weeds are not yet extirpated; and I believe the one to be as essential to the real regeneration of Irish Agriculture, as the other is to the martial glory and stability of the Empire."

The following Circular was addressed to the Magistracy, the Clergy of all Denominations, and other influential parties in Ireland, when sending them the Abstracts of Tillage and Live Stock. It was most favourably received, and I now reprint it:—

Agricultural Statistics Office,
5, Henrietta-street, Dublin,
October 20, 1856.

SIR,

In forwarding to you the accompanying abstracts and observations on the extent of Tillage and Number of Live Stock in Ireland, in 1855 and 1856—which I trust you will find interesting—I would earnestly solicit your attention to my remarks in reference to the extraordinary, and almost incredible growth of Weeds which is permitted along the sides of Public Roads, Railways, and Canals, as well as on the farms of Ireland. I say almost incredible, for it would be quite so, did not our every-day experience of their condition in this respect, convince us of the fact:—so important, indeed, has the subject become, that it has called forth the marked observations of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, at the late Cattle Show of the Royal Agricultural Society at Athlone, as well as on former occasions; also of Her Majesty's learned Judges of Assize, and of the Grand Jurors of almost every county in Ireland, during the late circuits. It may be truly said that a great social evil has imperceptibly grown up amongst us, until at length the attention of a large portion of the community has been turned towards it, with the view of finding a proper and permanent remedy: this happily, is within our reach; for, if the *landed proprietors, the resident gentry, and the clergy of all denominations, aided by the intelligent and improving Tenant Farmers of the country*—whose themselves the greatest sufferers from the present lamentable apathy and neglect—will only act upon the advice of His Excellency, and of Her Majesty's learned Judges, I feel I am not too sanguine in expressing my conviction that, in a few years, a most propitious change will have taken place, and the surface of this beautiful Island—now covered in so many places by large masses of thistles, rag-weed, and of yellow, scarlet, and other noxious weeds, which are permitted to grow and thrive, and scatter their baneful seeds far and wide—would then become what Providence designed her, and we now vainly boast her to be—the “*Emerald Isle*.”

The extracts which I have given in the accompanying Report from the writings of that true patriot, Sir John Sinclair, clearly prove the *great pecuniary loss arising from neglect in weeding cereal crops*. There is, however, another reason for weeding them, quite distinct from the important national question of *the loss in yield*,—which must attract the notice of every person who is not already familiar with it. I allude to the acute pain caused to the laborious reapers of our harvests, *when grasping the corn in the act of reaping*, by which, if the crop abounds with thistles and other prickly weeds, as is too frequently the case, the hands of the reapers are severely wounded. I have myself made inquiry from several parties of reapers from various counties, and from all of them I learned, that they would much sooner cut down and bind an acre of corn free from thistles and other weeds for *four or five shillings* less than they would a “*dirty*” crop—the reason invariably given being the additional time occupied in cutting down the latter, and the injury done to their hands by grasping the prickly weeds when reaping;—to use their

own expressive words, "their hands were often so festered and destroyed by thistles, that they had to give up their work."

I would beg, therefore, to observe, that *Self Interest*,—by obtaining an increased yield (as clearly shown in the writings of Sir John Sinclair, from which I have quoted); *Economy*,—even on *small farms*—as the children of the farmers might, in the spring season of the year, when the weeds are tender, assist in cleaning the crops, and thus aid in economizing the additional four or five shillings an acre, which, as I have stated, are paid for reaping "*dirty crops*;" but not least of all, *Sympathy for the poor reaper and binder* of our harvests, will, I most respectfully venture to hope, insure the co-operation of all classes, and the continued aid of the public press, in the attempt now being made to draw attention to the importance of destroying weeds in Ireland.

My observations have been hitherto confined to the great loss and injury caused by neglect in weeding cereal crops; but it must be evident to every one that an equal, if not greater, amount of damage arises in many counties from the *shedding of the thousand seeds* of thistles and other noxious plants, which is but too generally permitted on the *grazing farms* of the country. I feel I am warranted in stating that the owners or occupiers of these grass lands are usually indifferent on the subject, and object to the expense of destroying weeds, asserting that they do *themselves* no injury. Although these parties may not be sensible of their loss, yet it cannot be denied that *THEIR NEIGHBOURS*, the unhappy tillage farmers, for miles around, suffer from the seeming neglect of the opulent grazer. Does not this state of things require a remedy? Why, I would beg to ask, should not Ireland rival England and Scotland in the care of her crops?—or why should she be behind that best of agricultural models—Belgium? Happily this is *not a political or party question*, but one in which all may cordially unite for the benefit of our common country; and therefore it is that I respectfully ask for your influence and friendly co-operation to aid in eradicating weeds from the farms of Ireland. To those who feel an interest in the progress of the country, it will, no doubt, be gratifying to learn that instruction as to the *importance of destroying Weeds* will in future form part of the educational course in the National Schools, as well as in those in connexion with the Church Education Society and other influential bodies; from which it is to be hoped much benefit may arise to the farming classes of the country.

I take this opportunity of stating how deeply sensible I am of the kind and valuable assistance afforded to me, during the last six years, by the magistracy and clergy of all denominations, and by the public press of Ireland, in reference to the collection of these statistics. It also affords me the greatest satisfaction to express my obligations to my intelligent fellow-countrymen, the Tenant Farmers of Ireland, for their generous confidence, and the readiness with which they have given to the Enumerators the required information respecting their Stock and Tillage—an honourable example, well worthy of imitation by the farming classes in England.

I trust the importance of the subject to which I have now taken the liberty of calling your attention, will plead my excuse for troubling you at such length.

I am, Sir, your faithful servant,

WILLIAM DONNELLY, Registrar-General.

To ———

The following extracts on the subject of the almost incredible growth of weeds which prevails in Ireland, are taken from the "Leisure Hour" for the months of May and June, 1873:—

IRISH AGRICULTURE.

"Every traveller must be astonished at the neglect and waste of natural resources. Even in the pasture lands, in which Ireland most excels, the spontaneous liberality of the soil seems to induce the greater indolence and carelessness. The aid of art has been little used in laying down land to grass, for it is only recently that the trade in grass seeds has assumed any dimensions. Hay-making, as generally conducted, is a slovenly operation, though labour has been so abundant. Out too late, I saw the grass often left in small cocks, to be trampled by the autumn rains. A good sweet hay-stack is the exception, not the rule, on an Irish farm. I never saw such a country for weeds. I saw two men in a field with scythes mowing down ragwort. Had I been travelling afoot or in a car, and not in a railway carriage, I would have sought an explanation of so strange a sight. Had the ragwort been sown as a crop, it could hardly have been closer, so as actually to be mown with scythes. Is it used as fodder for any Irish animal? I suspect it was only an extreme illustration of the miserable state of the agriculture too common in Ireland. The amount of weeds is a national disgrace. It is not uncommon to see a ton of weeds in a dozen tons of hay. Many a field has more weeds than a whole parish in England. Small tenants keep land without laying it down with grass seeds, and it becomes the receptacle for all the floating weeds of the district, and then spreads them far and wide. Even for green crops the land is seldom sufficiently cleaned. Smoking heaps of twigs and weeds are rarely seen. If the farmer would give a small reward to boys for heaps of weeds, as they used to do for heads of vermin, they could keep this nuisance under. Ragwort, for instance, can easily be pulled up by the roots in wet weather, and the boys from the workhouse school would gladly attack a field for a trifling reward, and enjoy the fun of the bonfire that the heaps would make. But fields and road-sides are alike neglected, and weeds help to keep Ireland green but poor. I am sure it is no exaggeration to say that the direct loss to Ireland from weeds is above a million and a half sterling. I have heard the loss estimated at nearly double that amount. On the drainage of land vast sums have been expended, and under good management with wonderful results. But even in land that has been drained there is too general carelessness in scouring ditches and keeping the outlets of drains clear. It is better to have no drains than drains choked. In this matter, as in the curse of weeds, the careless, indolent habits of the people make agricultural progress up-hill work. Bad fences are also everywhere evident. The direct losses from the destruction of produce through this cause are enormous, and it is a constant source of litigation and ill-will. Want of industry and want of sense account for all the backwardness of Irish husbandry."—*Ireland in 1872: a Tour of Observation. By Dr. Macaulay, Editor of the "Leisure Hour."* (H. S. King & Co.)

The following remarks on the subject of weeds in Ireland are extracted from the *Freeman's Journal* :—

29th September, 1873.

"We think Mr. Donnelly has done good service in republishing, as an Appendix to his *Agricultural Statistics*, a collection of opinions on the poverty caused by the universal flourishing of weeds throughout this country. It is impossible to deny the accuracy of the statement that, *as far as weeds are concerned, Ireland is the wealthiest country in the world.* If we walk by a rural river, we see the bed covered with weeds taller than a man. If we look at those useless and wasteful ditches which divide one farm from another, the glaring yellow of the blooming weed meets the eye everywhere. If we glance at the slopes which run along a line of railway, we can see the noxious weed in full vigour. Fine crops are smothered by the myriad seeds which are borne along on every wind. *The good farmer is worried and deprived of the fruits of his skill and labour by the mere fact of bad neighbourhood.* The evil is almost universal. Every visitor to the country notices it, wonders at it, complains of it. Every book of observation taunts us with our slovenliness in this inexcusable matter; we dare not deny the fact, and we do nothing to remove the blot. Mr. Donnelly quotes Sir John Sinclair, Lord Carlisle, Charles Dickens, Dr. Macaulay, and the *Freeman's Journal*, in support of his 'CRUSADE AGAINST WEEDS.' For our part we trust his efforts, which in this direction have been unceasing, will have proper influence in enlisting the landlord, the county surveyor, the police and the people in a compact force which shall have for purpose the extirpation of this scandalous reproach."

8th July, 1874.

"Now, that the Grand Juries of Ireland are being assembled for the despatch of their important public duties, it is not an inopportune time to call the attention of those influential bodies to a matter which, though frequently brought before them already, has not hitherto received that serious and practical consideration to which it is entitled. We refer to the prevailing negligence which still allows a vast growth of weeds to deface the agriculture of the country, and to mar in a degree much larger than is popularly known the results of the cultivation of the soil of Ireland. The returns of our capable and careful Registrar-General, Mr. Donnelly, furnish some very striking figures on this head. In this gentleman's annual report we are able to trace the consequences of a defect of system which has been long the blot of Irish farming. It is evident to any person of observant habits who may chance to pass through three-fourths of the island that the farming of the land is to a great extent slovenly and wasteful. Not only are weeds allowed to flourish rankly in the ditches, the divisions of fields, in furrows and between drills, but they are all too often permitted to grow with the crop, stifling it with their luxuriance, and absorbing its nourishment from the soil, till, when at last an effort is made to remove them, the growing plants show starved, sickly, and discoloured. We do not want to exaggerate. There is a good deal of good farming in this country—the spirit of enlightenment has spread and is spreading—but there is more backwardness than there ought to be, above all in the indifference with respect to the worst enemy of legitimate vegetation—the weed. Nothing is more common than a young cornfield the natural green of which is converted into flaming

"yellow by the preponderance of foreign growths. Potato patches are found equally dirty. A particular fault, arising from a most hurtful misapprehension is the custom of leaving the weeds to remain till they have grown thick enough and large enough to make it a chance that the one weeding may clear the field. But before they have reached this stage, permitted them by a custom highly characteristic of the rude, happy-go-lucky methods of old farming, they inflict the most serious injury on the crop. There is another grave blemish on our agriculture. The gigantic ditches, the vast dykes and cuttings, the wide roadside traverses, which abound in Ireland are found nowhere else. But, besides the waste of surface caused by these, there is a more deliberate loss in the 'headlands,' which are left to lie untilled at the ends of the sown or planted ground. The whole subject has been so often discussed that it may seem a wearisome iteration to refer to it now; but we are induced to do so by the fact that we have recently received letters from tourists and visitors to Ireland which we are absolutely ashamed to publish, so strong are they in comment upon our want of thrift, neatness, and cleanliness in our farming. One correspondent, who is not, by the way, a stranger, is of opinion that much of the remedy lies with the Grand Jurors, or those who compose them. These gentlemen may be taken as enjoying a large amount of influence in the localities they represent. It is in their power to impress upon those in their employment, as well as upon their tenantry, the lesson of clean farming and full cultivation of as much of the ground in their occupation as they can put a plough-ssocket or a spade in. The law calls upon road contractors to remove weeds from the roadway, and this they ought to do. They might set a good example also upon their own farms. Another correspondent suggests, with a great deal of sound reason, that our public bodies, such as railway companies, who hold a large extent of land in their possession, might help to spread proper ideas upon this most important subject. As it is, the amateur horticulture and agriculture of the railway companies exhibit a disagreeable anomaly. Attached to some wayside station, the platforms and buildings of which are beautiful with wealth of well-tended roses, there may be found a plot of corn or potatoes, or vegetables, a very eye-sore for weeds and dirt. As a matter of fact, the loss caused by weeds and waste is immense. English periodicals have described the weeds in Ireland as 'a national disgrace.' Mr. Donnelly's reports substantiate the reproach. This is an evil, and a real one, and we think that the Registrar-General deserves the most emphatic acknowledgments for his incessant, unwearying, and zealous efforts to end what is not only the greatest blot on Irish agriculture, but the greatest impediment to its development and prosperity. He has recommended that children at school be instructed in the necessity of destroying weed. This is an excellent advice, and ought to be made a specialty of the National School teaching. When it is known that the loss to Ireland annually from weeds alone is estimated at from one and a half to three millions sterling, our readers will own that the commendable action of the Registrar-General ought to be earnestly and energetically seconded by all who have at heart the interests of the nation."